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FBIS-SOV-93-034 CONTENTS *23 February 1993*

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INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

All-Army Officers' Assembly Demands Grachev's Resignation *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Shaposhnikov Interviewed on 'Red Square' Program *[Moscow TV]* 1
Shaposhnikov Greets Servicemen on Anniversary *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Feb]* 7
Ostankino TV General Director Malashenko Resigns *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Heads of News Services Plan To Create Common Center *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Conclude Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 8
Little Baltic Reaction to Moscow City's Embargo on Trade *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 17 Feb]* ... 8
Russian Troops Seen as 'Detonator' of Social Upheaval *[BALTFAX]* 8
Retired KGB General Says Opposition Leader Was Agent *[INTERFAX]* 9
Government Presidium Views CIS Trade Ties *[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]* 9
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Feb 10
Press Review for 23 Feb 11

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Conference Links Conditions to Aid for Russia *[IZVESTIYA 20 Feb]* 13
TV Roundup Views Clinton Address; Nixon Visit *[Moscow TV]* 13
Yeltsin Aide Says U.S. Made 'Great Mistakes' in Russia *[Vienna DER STANDARD 20 Feb]* 14
Aide Meets U.S. Officials, Gets Assurances of Assistance *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 Feb]* 15
Clinton Confirms 'Tough Line' Policy Toward Iraq *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 15
Japan To Show 'Positive Attitude' on Yeltsin Invitation *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
'Expert' Advises Linking Japan Visit to Political Events *[INTERFAX]* 16
St. Petersburg Mayor Urges Japanese Support for Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Foreign Ministry Denies Report of Ultimatum to DPRK *[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]* 16
Bosnian Envoy Says Vance-Owen Plan 'Delayed-Action Mine' *[INTERFAX]* 17
Commentary Views Russia's 'Active' Policy on Yugoslavia *[Moscow International]* 17
Russians, Others Participating in Yugoslav War *[Moscow TV]* 18
Parliament, Foreign Ministry Near Agreement on Bosnia *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 Feb]* 18
Intelligence Chief Visits Germany To Boost Contacts *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
German Environment Minister Holds Talks in Moscow *[Hamburg DPA]* 19
Grachev: Russia Selling Weapons To Ensure Nation's Safety *[Russian TV]* 19
Kozyrev: Russia Not To Yield 'Geopolitical Role' *[Milan PANORAMA 21 Feb]* 19
Tajikistan's Abdullodzhanov To Meet Leaders, Businessmen *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Meets With Kozyrev *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Grachev Meets Norwegian Armed Forces' Chief *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Denies Problem in Military Ties *[INTERFAX]* 21
Rutskoy, Jordanian Prince Discuss Developing Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 21

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Issues Decree To Boost Personnel for Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Transition Needs Reforms in Fuel, Energy Complex *[INTERFAX]* 22
Energy Minister Says Oil Output To Drop 12 Percent *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Chernomyrdin: State Should Control Privatization *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Gaydar Says Inflation 'Greatest Danger' *[INTERFAX]* 23
Chubays Discusses 'People's Privatization' at Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Denies State To Surrender Bulk of Public Property *[INTERFAX]* 24
'Source' on Plan To Sell Weapons To Finance Oil Industry *[INTERFAX]* 24

Military Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Arms, Military Intelligence Embargo *[INTERFAX]* 24
Grachev Discusses Army Status, Readiness *[IZVESTIYA 23 Feb]* 25
Grachev Answers Journalists Questions on Army *[Russian TV]* 27

Rutskoy Says People, Army 'Indivisible' *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Yeltsin Signs Law on Military Service, Pensions *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Leaders Congratulate Servicemen, Veterans *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Poll Finds Servicemen Assess Military Reform Positively *[ITAR-TASS]* 32

Supreme Soviet

Georgian Treaty Ruled Out Until Progress on Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 32
More Remarks by Envoy, Shakhray *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Abdulatipov on Georgian Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Abdulatipov on Ethnic Conflicts *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Feb]* 33
New Council Chairman Sokolov Interviewed *[Moscow TV]* 34
Supreme Soviet Passes Laws 19 Feb 35
On State Border *[INTERFAX]* 35
On Protecting State Bodies *[INTERFAX]* 35
On Refugees *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Parliament Examines Law on Status of Moscow City *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 Feb]* 36
Proceedings of 11 Feb Supreme Soviet Session *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Feb]* 36

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Officer Comments on Gas Dispute With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 38
Russia Assures European Supplies *[Budapest TV]* 38
Pynzenyk Comments *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 18 Feb]* 38
Kravchuk, German Minister Discuss Nuclear Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Aid Linked to START I Ratification *[Moscow International]* 39
Foreign Ministry Issues Note on USSR Property *[Kiev International]* 39

National Affairs

Anti-Communist Front Demands Dissolution of Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 39
Sevastopol Group Urges Move To Join Russia *[INTERFAX]* 39
New Measures To Stabilize National Currency *[INTERFAX]* 39
Kravchuk issues Law Amending Law on Citizenship *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 16 Feb]* 40
Supreme Council Decree on Implementing Citizenship Law *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 17 Feb]* 40
Law Gives Citizens More Freedom To Act Against Criminals *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 17 Feb]* 40

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich 'Refuted' Nuclear Arms Proposals *[INTERFAX]* 42
Decision Bans Weapons, Harmful Substances Traffic *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Military Official Interviewed on 'Special Purpose Units' *[VO SLAVU RODINY 5 Feb]* 42
Destruction of Tanks at Borisov Plant Detailed *[Minsk Radio]* 43
Fall Draft Calls-Up 19,000; 1,500 Fail To Show *[BELINFORM]* 43
Shushkevich Appoints New Construction Committee Chairman *[BELINFORM]* 43
Memorandum Signed With EBRD on Mutual Understanding *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Minsk, Bashkirs Sign Economic Cooperation Protocol *[BELINFORM]* 44
International Organizations Discuss Technological Aid *[BELINFORM]* 44
Government Adopts Measures To Improve Agriculture *[BELINFORM]* 44

Moldova

Snegur Accuses Ministries of Lack of Initiative *[INTERFAX]* 45
Dniester Republic Sets Up Customs Service *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Parliament Tries To Identify 'Dictatorship' Document Author *[INTERFAX]* 45
New Constitution To Be Submitted for Discussion, Referendum *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 45
German Officers Inspect Troops According to Vienna Treaty
[Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL 18 Feb] 46
Parliamentary Chief Visits Romania En Route to Turkey *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
State Adviser Discusses Privatization, Tax Reform *[INTERFAX]* 46

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Receives Ukrainian Prime Minister *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 47
Agreement Signed on Oil Exploitation *[Moscow TV]* 47

Nazarbayev, Kuchma Discuss Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Nazarbayev Reiterates Call For Oil Independence *[INTERFAX]* 48
Industrialists Discuss Economic Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Vice President Urges Additional Powers for Nazarbayev *[INTERFAX]* 48
Constitutional Court Wants Equality in Punishment *[INTERFAX]* 48

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov Gives Armed Forces Day Speech *[Dushanbe Radio]* 49
Rakhmonov on Afghan Situation; Denies Being Communist *[INTERFAX]* 49
Parliament Chief Assures U.S. of Commitment to Democracy *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Deputy Prime Minister Thanks Russian Military *[INTERFAX]* 50
Muslim Leadership Voices 'Full Support' for Government *[Moscow International]* 50
Commentary on Results of Prime Minister's India Visit *[Moscow International]* 50
Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Cited *[INTERFAX]* 51
Program To Rebuild War-Ravaged Economy Elaborated *[IZVESTIYA 13 Feb]* 51
Government Elaborates Anti-Crisis Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 51

Uzbekistan

Ukraine's Kuchma Holds Talks With Karimov, Mutalov *[Kiev TV]* 52
Kuchma on Economy, Cooperation, Crimean Tatars *[UKRINFORM]* 52
Agreement 'Came as a Surprise' *[INTERFAX]* 53
Gas Agreement 'Exceptionally Important' *[Kiev International]* 53
New Passports To Be Issued 'This Summer' *[Moscow Radio]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Artem Atalyants Appointed Presidential Adviser *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Opposition Claims New Cabinet 'Will Be Short-Lived' *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 54
Opposition Activists Released 19 Feb *[INTERFAX]* 54
Spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh on Next Round of Talks *[INTERFAX]* 54
North Ossetian Premier Signs Economic Agreement in Yerevan *[Yerevan International]* 55
Self-Defense Forces Continue 'Successful Counteroffensive' *[Yerevan Radio]* 55
NKR, Border Clashes With Azerbaijan Updated *[Yerevan Radio]* 55

Azerbaijan

President Elchibey on Russian Troop Presence *[INTERFAX]* 56
Further Remarks *[TURAN]* 56
People's Front Criticizes Russian Troops' Role *[ASSA-IRADA]* 56
Commentary Rejects Russian Deployment in Armenia *[Baku International]* 57
Legislature Criticizes Defense Ministry Over Losses *[TURAN]* 57
Official Quits Over Army 'Political Games' *[Radio Rossi]* 57
Commander Dismissed Over Failure in Nagorno-Karabakh *[Radio Rossii]* 58
Armenians Continue Offensive in Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 58
Fighting Reported in Various Rayons *[Baku Radio]* 58
Armenian Units Take Control of Sarsang Dam *[INTERFAX]* 58
World Urged To Take Steps To End 'Massacre' *[Baku Radio]* 58
Party Leader Proposes Autonomy for Armenians in Karabakh *[TURAN]* 59

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns of General Mobilization *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Seeks Meeting With Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Returns to Tbilisi *[INTERFAX]* 60
Cabinet Announces Conscription To Begin 1 Mar *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Conflict Zone Remains Tense; Clashes in Eshera, Guandra *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Russian Army Installations Still Under Attack *[Moscow TV]* 60
Two Policemen Killed in Tbilisi 22 Feb *[INTERFAX]* 60
Abkhazia To Inspect Ships Sailing to Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Radicals Urge Taking Over USSR Weapons *[Moscow TV]* 61

All-Army Officers' Assembly Demands Grachev's Resignation

LD2202114093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Coordination Council of the All-Army Officers' Assembly (AOA) will strive for the resignation of Army General Pavel Grachev, defense minister of Russia, the headquarters of the Union of Officers reported today, on the initiative of which an All-Army Officers' Assembly took place on Saturday and Sunday [20 and 21 February].

Its participants—350 officers from 30 regions of Russia, and also from Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, and Armenia—adopted an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation demanding the resignation of the defense minister since, in their opinion, the present leadership of the ministry is incapable of effectively deciding questions of the combat readiness of the Army and Navy, of strengthening military discipline, of social protection, and of the rights and interests of servicemen and the members of their families.

The leading body of the AOA was elected at the assembly—the Coordinating Council [koordinationnyy sovet] to which nine officers belong.

Shaposhnikov Interviewed on 'Red Square' Program

LD2102132093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, by announcer Aleksandr Lyubimov, program "expert" Andranik Migranyan, and Sergey Blagovolin, president of the Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies; from the "Red Square" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on recorded video introduction to the program by Aleksandr Lyubimov on the current status of the CIS Armed Forces and the Armed Forces' confusion over their current role]

[Shaposhnikov] I am, so to speak, impressed by this rather eloquent introduction. I would like to develop this theme a bit and reply to your question.

The main misfortune of the period of perestroyka is that the highest-ranking politicians wanted to put a brave face on a sorry business. They wanted the Army to solve all political problems for them where they were incapable of resolving them themselves, such as Tbilisi, Baku, Vilnius, and somehow to remain on the sidelines themselves, to resolve their problems while they remained at the helm and perhaps, where necessary, decided the fate of the Army to the detriment of the Army. But in protecting itself, the Army learned to think, also.

Well, that is when all these events took place. They did not manage to frighten the people with this thinking Army. They did not manage this because the Army realized that no politician would defend it and that it somehow needed to have its own independent identity. Well, that made it possible to organize a respite in the criticism of the Army since August to spring 1992. These processes are starting once again now.

According to estimates, I see it as an attempt to drive a wedge between the Army and the people, between officers and generals, between soldiers and officers, and so on and so forth. I mean there are a great many problems in the Army of the Commonwealth, a great many phenomena, including negative ones, but law enforcement and legislative bodies, together with the renewed Army, should deal with these questions.

[Lyubimov] Who can you rely on among the civilians if they do not understand? I have heard various stories that when the question of the Crimea was being discussed in its time, the president, let us say of Russia, said we would lease part of Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet would go to Leningrad where the docks, it is said, are standing idle in our country, and so forth. You are getting into a situation where nobody in particular is dealing with your problems, but then you will be forced to defend yourselves through political methods. What sort of relations do you have with the Ukrainians?

[Shaposhnikov] We are doing that, incidentally, as far as defending ourselves is concerned.

[Lyubimov] Well, tell us some secrets. [words indistinct]

[Shaposhnikov] Well, I will tell you—not secrets, of course [laughs]. I have to say that, from the very outset, when the CIS was formed, I perceived it, and still perceive—and do not lose hope—that this is a new type of mutual relations between our peoples.

[Lyubimov] Well, in my opinion, if that holiday is called by its old name—Soviet Army Day—you are the last soldier of the Soviet Army. In this sense, you are, most importantly, the pain of the CIS. But nobody understands you, listens to you.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, and therefore, apart from the president, when we assemble at the Council of Heads of States, when I go out, make personal visits to resolve one question or another, I have realized that I have to expand my field of activity, and I am now meeting heads of governments, apart from the president, and heads of parliaments. It has recently become a tradition for me to meet the ambassadors of the CIS states in Russia. Now [words indistinct]...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] You are sometimes accused of having taken upon yourself...

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...the interparliamentary assembly. Well, in connection with this, we, of course, have a problem, and at the last Minsk meeting there were questions about how we could be reformed so as to ensure that two spheres of tasks were not concentrated in my person—political and military, since they are different sometimes—and, of course, it is not possible for either one or the other to be combined in one person.

[Lyubimov] Maybe there should be a civilian deputy?

[Migranyan] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, I would like to ask this question, which Sasha asked a bit more specifically. Nevertheless, how do the national armies and the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS diverge? What is under your direct subordination? What forces are you in charge of, do you command, control?

[Shaposhnikov] All right. At first there was a plan that everything that was called the Soviet Army would be dispersed in a civilized and calm manner in a set transitional period of say three to five years to the national armies...

[Migranyan, interrupting] But that has not happened.

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...which would be transformed into the Joint Armed Forces.

[Lyubimov] Well, nonetheless, they are thirsting to get guards, little airplanes for flying, little boats for sailing [words indistinct]. [Lyubimov laughs]

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] [Words indistinct] for (?toy) soldiers, to direct them right and left, and to rejoice in that without giving any thought to what lies under the overcoat, so to speak, and the uniform, in the heart of that person, what he thinks. All these questions, all these problems, should have been resolved to start with. We are proceeding along an absolutely nonstandard path—the Joint Armed Forces have always been created from armies...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] ...from armies meeting each other half way. [words indistinct]

[Shaposhnikov] Therefore, in reply to your question, I would like to say that today under my subordination, my operational subordination, are strategic forces and units of the national armed forces allocated for guaranteeing collective security, both on the external borders of the CIS and inside the CIS for peacekeeping purposes.

[Migranyan] And what units are these, Yevgenniy Ivanovich, because...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] Well, there are several divisions.

[Migranyan] What do you think the character of the mutual relations between the Army as an institution and the political institutions is?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, on the basis of law, the fact of the matter is that our misfortunes, which I spoke of at the very beginning, all of that is based upon our past lawlessness. We did not have serious laws on the Army. There was the order of the chief of staff, a law for those who were subordinate. The Constitution said this was the sacred duty and the sacred obligation of every citizen and that was practically it. But, well, that should not be so. I think we should build a state in such a way that we, the citizens of that state, who are in it and living in it, should not be aware of that state, just as we are not aware of the air that we breathe.

[Blagovolin] That is quite right. That is the ideal that we should strive for, of course.

[Shaposhnikov] If we exceed the bounds of that law, then we feel that we cannot breathe or that those who are within the boundaries of that pure air should be responsible before the law, which [words indistinct].

[Blagovolin, interrrupting] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, there is the question of the Russian Army, which is now outside the boundaries of Russia—in the Central Asian parts of the CIS. We all know how badly the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border is deteriorating now. After all, that is also essentially the border of Russia, for if the flood really bursts there then it is a misfortune for all of us. The question arises: Isn't the situation arising whereby essentially all of the dirty work rests on the shoulders of the Russian Army and all the rest are just putting a good face on it? Well, we are with you...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] ...and parades, and parades. [smiles]

[Blagovolin] And we support you with parades. Isn't there a kind of contradiction here also because, on the whole, it is the Russian Army, and it should at the same time be under the political control not only of the Russian leadership, but also the leadership of those independent countries that have appeared and which, incidentally, have received—and well, since I do not hold official posts, I can say openly—have received their share of armaments, of soldiers, officers, excuse me, as a result of the unpardonable pillaging of the Armed Forces that went on until people started to come to their senses. How can normal mutual relations be found here?

[Shaposhnikov] I agree with you. The fact that the Russian Armed Forces, even as peacemaking forces, were introduced to many hot spots, like Moldova, Ossetia, and even Tajikistan....

[Blagovolin, interrupting] Yes, precisely.

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...may be interpreted, so to speak, as the revival of Russia's imperial role in the CIS.

[Blagovolin, interrupting] But where are others, Yevgeniy Ivanovich?

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...and I would like to tell you and our television viewers that I am constantly raising this question, that each of the states should participate in the peacemaking forces.

[Blagovolin] Of course, this is of great importance.

[Lyubimov] But they do not want to.

[Blagovolin] But they do not want to.

[Shaposhnikov] But no such mechanism has been developed. I will give you the latest example—Tajikistan. When Rakhmonov, the chairman of the present Supreme Soviet, took up his post, he appealed to four CIS states to introduce peacemaking forces there. These states were Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The mechanism here is the following: Each of the states has laws saying that our lads must not serve outside the boundaries, but even if they were to go on a peacemaking mission, the issue would have to be raised in parliament. None of the parliaments or the states managed to resolve this issue, except Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan responded to Tajikistan's request and said: Here is our battalion. So Uzbekistan's battalion is ready, but look at my position: If I, as commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces, become the head of this battalion and these armed forces go there, what sort of joint forces will they be? They won't be joint. The mechanism is significantly lagging behind reality.

In connection with this, and also taking into account other reasons, we agreed in Minsk that we should find a mechanism for improvement. It will also resolve another problem linked to the political monitoring mentioned by our expert Migranyan. So, what is it leading to? I intend to have a meeting in Tashkent on 26 February with the defense ministers of the states that signed the collective security treaty. There are six of them.

[Blagovolin] So there are six signatures.

[Shaposhnikov] As they say, it is quality not quantity that counts. I think we will agree quickly there. About what? About some political structure that should be above me. I intend to propose the following option, something along the following lines: there should be a council of collective security, which will include the presidents of the six states, the prime ministers of the six states, and they would be supported by the main command, on the one hand, together with the council of the defense ministers of these states and the council of foreign ministers. Then military politicians would raise their issues to this, so to speak, think tank where they would be discussed and resolved. Perhaps it would be possible to solve emergency situations like the one in Tajikistan without parliaments.

[Migranyan] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, following what you have just said, how can you effectively operate in implementing the treaty on collective security if the treaty itself has not been ratified? Apart from Armenia, none of the states has ratified the treaty. How can you...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] Apart from Armenia, some other states have ratified it: Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have ratified it. I think at present it is only Russia that has not ratified it.

[Migranyan] Russia has not ratified it and it is the most important since everyone wants help from Russia. As long as Russia does not ratify the treaty...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] For some reason Russia thinks that it is very rigid, that it binds initiative, etc.

[Migranyan] But indeed there are clauses in it that propose an automatic involvement of Russia in any conflict between states that turn out to be drawn into conflicts with each other.

[Blagovolin] Irrespective of whether it meets Russian interests or not.

[Migranyan] Absolutely.

[Shaposhnikov] It seems to me that if Russia does not want to ratify it, it could have exchanged letters of credence and introduced some concrete, clearer proposals that suit Russia and then it could have been resolved differently somehow. But simply to do nothing is no good.

[Migranyan] The process is blocked.

[Lyubimov] I am sorry, but we should move on to our next subject. Yevgeniy Ivanovich—nuclear forces. I have heard—I mean there are many leaks from the Kremlin now [laughter]—that Yeltsin has no batteries for his briefcase, there are not enough batteries and so it does not work. Can you fire any missiles anywhere now, even just one?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, we have a system...

[Lyubimov] This zero flight task [nulevoye polyetnoye zadaniye], I do not understand it. I am a simple man, not a military man. What is this zero? Does it go to the center of the earth, or into space? [laughter]

[Shaposhnikov] You know, when I was USSR defense minister and everything was moving in the direction of there being no USSR, so to speak...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] Yes.

[Shaposhnikov] Well, one day Mikhail Sergeyevich [Gorbachev] phoned me and said, Yevgeniy Ivanovich, there is a problem...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] We are going to fire? [laughter]

[Shaposhnikov] He said, there is a problem, and do you know what it is? You know, I have received a telegram from three colonels who are stationed at missile installations, and they wrote to me to say, Mikhail Sergeyevich, if you do not preserve the USSR, then we will retrain all our missiles on the capitals of the union republics...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] Yes.

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...and we will reduce one-sixth of the territory to desert. Can you imagine what is

going on here? I said to him, that cannot be the case. Give me that telegram. I will sort these colonels out...

[Blagovolin, interrupting] What a fine situation. [laughter]

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...therefore, if I should lose my mind let us say...

[Blagovolin, interrupting] Don't do that Yevgeniy Ivanovich.

[Shaposhnikov, continuing] ...and if I were to come up with a crazy idea to fire missiles, then I could not do that. We have a system whereby, without Boris Nikolayevich, the Russian president, who is entrusted with being the determing link in this sense, well...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] So previously there were three briefcases. One belonged to the chief of the general staff, one to the defense minister, and one to the general secretary?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes.

[Lyubimov] And now there are two.

[Shaposhnikov] There were four at one time.

[Lyubimov] And you had a spare one in your safe.

[Shaposhnikov] The number of briefcases is not the crux of the matter. The main thing is the mechanism of making a decision and its implementation. The mechanism is such that one person, in particular a military person, cannot do this.

[Lyubimov] For example, I appreciate this is purely a rhetorical question, but it is important from the point of view of policy in the field of military affairs: Do you have to agree with Grachev in this situation?

[Shaposhnikov] Of course.

[Lyubimov] Okay. In general, I remember there was a period immediately after the disintegration of the USSR when control over nuclear weapons was the main and very painful issue. As far as I understand this was the main concern of top military officials—how to have everything under control. Do you feel safe in this sense now?

[Shaposhnikov] I cannot say I feel safe. We have found enough responsibility and common sense to transfer all tactical nuclear weapons on Russian territory. At present these are under control, etc. However, there were problems with Ukraine even then, it tried to delay the process. Then we, three of us—the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and myself—found a formula and somehow managed to do this ahead of time, although I do not like the expression. As for strategic nuclear weapons, there is an interesting situation. On the one hand, in line with the Lisbon protocol, the Commonwealth states, except Russia, become nuclear-free states by 2000. It would seem, since they agreed to this, the sooner they get rid of these weapons the easier for everyone and, roughly speaking, let Russia worry about it if she wants, so to speak. But on the other hand, some kind of trading began, some kind of a game started.

Belarus, which is half Russian even in its name, determined its position quickly and clearly and said: We do not want nuclear missiles, this is Russian property, we only leave operational management to the commander in chief as long as they are on our territory. Henceforth, they will be Russian strategic forces, and only the Russian president and defense minister will occupy themselves with these issues.

Kazakhstan occupies what amounts to an intermediate position between that of Belarus and Ukraine. Ukraine is saying: give us guarantees; give us compensation; we are organizing administrative control now and so on, and we will strive to attain nonnuclear status. The puzzle now is what is Ukraine? Nuclear or nonnuclear? Unfortunately, I have not been given an answer to that question by the authorities at any level in Ukraine and...

[Blagovolin, interrupting] I understand they are concerned about their rights of ownership to each concrete element, each warhead and missile as they are dismantled.

[Shaposhnikov] I am afraid, Sasha, that the issue here goes deeper, because although the Ukrainian leadership unequivocally states it supports the implementation of all these agreements, there are certain forces there that make their position perfectly clear and that are trying to have this issue somehow reexamined. In my view, if any of the countries, apart from Russia, which formerly made up the Soviet Union manage by some means or another to preserve nuclear weapons for themselves, then this will be a catastrophe from the political point of view, and, at the same time, it will signal the end of the nonproliferation regime.

[Migranyan] One very specific question relating to this: Yevgeniy Ivanovich, who controls the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory today? Who carries out the servicing and repair of these missiles?

[Blagovolin] It is simply frightening.

[Shaposhnikov] So this is the situation now: After Army General Maksimov, commander of CIS Strategic Forces, retired, I was directed to take command of CIS Strategic Forces as well. But I said right there—this was in Bishkek—that we do not have the command structures established under the Joint Armed Forces command, they are not appropriate to the new duties that have been decided on for technical control and so on of the strategic forces located outside Russia.

So I said right then in Bishkek, let us organize Strategic Forces Command under the Russian Defense Ministry, and I can go in there by right as a plenipotentiary

representative of these three states, and for the time when these arms will be on the territory of these three states...

[Blagovolin, interrupting] A transition period, yes.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes. They did not take it up...

[Blagovolin, interrupting] No, they did not. [passage indistinct]

[Shaposhnikov] I cannot at this time carry out....[Shapshnikov changes thought] All the same, who has to carry out the functions of control over regulation of work, of technical supervision? Who? Russians—Russian structures.

[Blagovolin] There are no other experts or specialists.

[Shaposhnikov] Now we have a preliminary agreement with Ukraine that Ukraine will not obstruct visits to these missile units by Russian specialists. That is point number one. I am a little encouraged, although I am not completely hopeful, by the fact that the presidents of Ukraine and Russia met here in Moscow in January and signed a communique, and in the communique they directed their governments to develop agreements within a month, first on guarantees for Ukraine, and second on material compensation if necessary, which will have to be calculated, and third on technical and construction inspections of missile and nuclear things by Russian specialists.

[Blagovolin] A service schedule.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes. The month is already over and two meetings have taken place, but so far nothing has come of it. But this is the cost of what we have today.

[Lyubimov] Right, but at any rate the nuclear weapons situation is better in my opinion than a year ago.

[Lyubimov] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, just before the holiday I would like to talk about simple soldiers coming back from Poland and Germany, back here to the Volga and the Urals—as I understand it that is where most of them live and so on. But first of all I would like to have my say on—how should I put it—on antiarmy propaganda.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes.

[Lyubimov] Why are there always rumors about you? Either some General (Karakozov) is buying some furniture or dachas—that is where you came up with Grachev—or there is some sort of firm in the Western Group of Forces. Everybody is saying you issued this order on commercial activity in the Army, and subsequently practically half of the Western Group of Forces was completely sold to somewhere a long, long way away in the south, in the desert...

[Migranyan, interrupting] General (Burlakov) allegedly...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] Yes. What is all that? How...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] Please let me have a couple of minutes without interruption.

[Lyubimov] Okay.

[Shaposhnikov] I will answer all these questions, because there really has been some hype over this matter. I am surprised why some of the media have not gotten into wars to some extent in their attempts to be convincing. Well, when I became USSR defense minister, my first working day finished at about 2300. I reported to Mikhail Sergeyevich that I had taken up my post and so on, and that I needed to get ready to get some rest. My assistants approached me and said: Yevgeniy Ivanovich, it is not desirable for you to spend the night at home, as you do not yet have the communication facilities you need at your house and are not guarded properly, especially in that anything may happen following the August events. I asked them what they were proposing. They said a state dacha was assigned to the defense minister by way of the nature of things and in accordance with accepted standards and that I might stay there at night.

[Blagovolin] Was this somewhere in Arkhangelskoye.

[Shaposhnikov] No, it was located beyond Zhukovka.

[Blagovolin] I see, beyond Zhukovka. That is the same area.

[Shaposhnikov] Well, I traveled to the dacha. It was past midnight. I could see the dacha was a work of art. It had five bedrooms, a swimming pool, a billiards room, a dining room, a sauna, servants, and so on. I enquired as to whose dacha it was. I was told it was the defense minister's and belonged to Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov's family, but he was already living at a different dacha. He did live for a time at this dacha, but had now moved to another, and so on. This one is assigned to the minister. I asked why it was so big and so senselessly extravagant.

[Lyubimov] Well, it is a big country.

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, that is right. I was told that these dachas were built for members of the Politburo and that there were about fifteen of them. This was one of them.

[Lyubimov] You nevertheless privatized it. [laughter]

[Shaposhnikov] No, not at all. At the time no normal person had enough money for its privatization.

[Lyubimov] At 1985 prices I would have privatized it.

[Shaposhnikov] Let us not go into that.

[Migranyan] At its nominal price too.

[Lyubimov] Yes, at its nominal price. [laughter]

[Shaposhnikov] Let us not go into that. Let us move on. I said at the time that I would not be setting foot in this dacha. In the morning I would have communication facilities at home, and so on and so forth. I drove home

and said to my wife that previously I had been no one and had nothing. Now I had become defense minister and I had been offered this dacha and, as it were, allowed access to the feeding trough for me to eat from like a certain well-known animal and for me to make noises and think in the way that the master wanted...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] But nevertheless...

[Shaposhnikov] I said no.

[Lyubimov] But top officials should have some, I don't know...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] It seems as if they should. But when I came...

[Lyubimov, interrupting] The thing is it should be open. I do not like when it is done on the sly. Chubays signed something, Grachev wrote something surreptitiously. And then 20 letters, the leak to the media...

[Shaposhnikov, interrupting] When I came, I wrote letters to Gorbachev and Yeltsin that it was impossible to live like this. Either we should legalize what we had or let those of us who could, buy what they could, because there were a lot of generals and marshals from the group of general inspectors—one could not throw them out only because power had changed. And we announced: let us do this. Then, still under the central USSR Government, we were allowed to do this. And we began to implement it.

[Lyubimov] I remember, we also discussed this on our program.

[Shaposhnikov] I then approached our Defense Ministry and asked them whether we had in our Defense Ministry an absolutely vacant dacha where nobody had ever lived. They said yes, we had. They took me to this dacha—a two-storey building, 5 rooms. It was not finished being built. I do not know, one can carry out a whole investigation as to who built it.

[Lyubimov] It was carried out, yours was not very big.

[Shaposhnikov] Sorry? I do not understand.

[Lyubimov] Your dacha was not very big.

[Shaposhnikov] There was no wallpaper, no lighting, no plumbing. I said, okay, I would pay for these because I had already received an approval on this privatization in principle then. Everything was calculated. I asked: How much did this dacha cost the state and the taxpayer? I was told: It cost 161,000 rubles [R], but with the improvements you owe us 581,000 rubles. I went to the State Bank and took a mortgage and paid the Defense Ministry. A procurator's commission was set up; they said the calculations were wrong. I invited the whole procurator's commission—and there were women, civilians, procurators, military, and civilians. We went there and they looked at everything. Some time later I received yet another bill for 800,000 rubles. I went to the bank again. I cannot remember what year it was.

[Blagovolin] Was it on top of the money you had paid already?

[Shaposhnikov] On top. I went to the bank again and borrowed more money—1 million rubles. I gave this to them and I thought if I would serve for another 10 years, if not me, perhaps my children would pay it off; moreover, wages were going up. This is the situation.

[Lyubimov] When will the universal officers' weeping stop? I mean the housing problem. When in reality will all officers live in normal apartments?

[Shaposhnikov] You know, I am not avoiding this question, but I would like to say the following: as a result of a certain government, for many years we have found ourselves in a situation where there is no balance between the highest state destiny of our Army and the amount of care and social protection given to the people in uniform. The people this question should be addressed to are not here today, unfortunately. Other people came and try to share my belief with regard to these problems; they have to, since a Russian interstate commission has been set up. Until civilian society deals with the Army's problems, resolving them with the Army, the weeping will not stop.

[Lyubimov] I would like to congratulate you, right away, because we have a holiday, and it now has such a good name, but I, unfortunately, am from television, and many viewers would prefer you to do it.

[Shaposhnikov] Thank you very much. I want to congratulate all CIS servicemen, despite the fact that these various processes are going on here, and their families, and veterans of the Armed Forces on this significant anniversary, the 75th anniversary of the creation of the workers' and peasants' army. No matter what it is called now, whatever processes are going on, the main thing is that the Army remains international in both its spirit and composition. It is impossible to destroy this, I believe, because what we have gone through over these decades is worthy of imitation; that is, courage, bravery, mutual assistance, and close military brotherhood, regardless of nationality, between soldiers and officers of all nationalities. I believe this basis is also the foundation that will serve to bring our relations between the peoples of the CIS states to a new and complete form of mutual relations, and therefore I would like to congratulate everyone again and wish you good health, success, optimism, and prosperity to the families and all the very best in our difficult labor, which is very necessary to our states.

[Lyubimov] Thank you very much for coming to our program. I also congratulate you.

Shaposhnikov Greets Servicemen on Anniversary

PM2302144193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 93 p 1

["Congratulations from Commander in Chief of CIS Joint Armed Forces," signed by Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov]

[Text] The 75th anniversary of the creation of the Worker-Peasant Red Army falls 23 February 1993. Over the past decades it traveled a difficult but glorious path marked by immortal exploits and victories on the fronts of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars and grew up into the mighty USSR Armed Forces. With the creation of the CIS they serve as the basis for the formation of national armies and their transformation into the Joint Armed Forces.

The traditions developed by many generations of servicemen—of loyal service to the people, devotion to military duty, courage, fearlessness and daring, troop comradeship and inviolable combat friendship of soldiers and officers of different nationalities—have become the property of the Commonwealth states' armies. The preservation and augmentation of these sacred traditions and the development and strengthening of all-around cooperation among the armies of the CIS member states are a decisive guarantee of reliably ensuring national and collective security and an example for improving the time-tested relations among our peoples and creating new ones based on mutual confidence and respect. Aware of their historic responsibility for the present and future of the Commonwealth's peoples, the Armed Forces remain international both in their makeup and in their spirit.

I congratulate servicemen of the Armed Forces, participants in the Great Patriotic War, and army and navy veterans on the historic anniversary. I wish you all strong health, happiness and well-being for your families, and successes in strengthening the CIS member states' defense capability for the good of the Commonwealth's peoples.

[Signed] Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov

Ostankino TV General Director Malashenko Resigns

LD2202133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 22 Feb 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Igor Malashenko, first deputy chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, and general director of Ostankino Television, sent a letter to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today asking to be released from his post. He also issued an open letter to Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the State Television and Radio Company, in which he informed the Ostankino head that he finds it impossible to work with him. At a news conference held today, Igor Malashenko justified his decision on the grounds that he regards "as impermissible the undivided influence exerted upon the television by one political group, albeit one with so democratic a name as 'Democratic Russia.'" This political group, headed, according to the Ostankino general director, by Mikhail Poltoranin and Vyacheslav Bragin, has at this present stage set Ostankino the main task of "ensuring the referendum takes place." Furthermore, this work is in Igor Malashenko's opinion being carried out along the lines of a "mass propaganda campaign." While recognizing that "Democratic Russia" supporters do have the right to their own stance in regard to the referendum, he voiced disagreement with the fact that the state television and radio company had been put at the service of such a stance.

Valentin Lazutkin, deputy chairman of the state TV and radio company, recalled that in August 1991 he had issued an order ending the party affiliation at Ostankino to make the TV service a public one rather than an instrument serving a single party.

Considerable evidence of the pressure being exerted on journalists was cited. The announcer of the Itogi TV program, Yevgeniy Kiselev, confirmed that more and more often he was receiving "instructions from above" as to whose views should be reflected in the program. The culmination of the dispute at Ostankino was a letter signed by the head of the Supreme Soviet's subcommittee on privatization, Petr Filippov (also a supporter of the Democratic Russia movement), in which the latter set out his plans for broadcasting coverage of the economic reform. The letter, worded in the form of a directive, won the backing of Vyacheslav Bragin.

Heads of News Services Plan To Create Common Center

LD1902134493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—It is not ruled out that the agenda of one of the next meetings of the CIS heads of state and government council will include an item on the formation of a Commonwealth information body with the participation of state news agencies to serve as the principal guarantor of the common information space. This proposals is contained in the final statement issued by the meeting of leaders of CIS information agencies, which ended in Moscow today.

The two-day meeting of representatives from the news agencies of Armenia, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine has shown that broad exchanges of information on processes occurring in CIS countries is among the mainstays of cooperation among the newly independent states that have appeared on the territory of the former USSR. This idea can be implemented, the meeting participants

believe, only if the information space, formed on principles of equality, is saved and further developed.

Backing the idea of a CIS information body, director of the UKRINFORM news service Vitaliy Vozianov moved to guarantee the transit of information among CIS countries as the first step to save their common information space. At the same time, Vozianov expressed the desire that ITAR-TASS should not limit itself to purely Russian topics, thereby losing its world status.

Director of the TURKMENPRESS news service Batyr Khalliev said that the process of cooperation with colleagues from foreign countries outside the CIS had begun in the CIS republics, but nobody wanted to rupture relations with partners in the Commonwealth.

On the initiative of ITAR-TASS Director-General Vitaliy Ignatenko, which was backed by his colleagues, the text of the statement was supplemented by a clause calling for the correct coverage of inter-ethnic relations and for due respect to leaders of the sovereign states. "Self-control and unbiased reporting are the qualities that should characterise the infofmation released by the agencies," Ignatenko stated.

The meeting discussed several technical and financial problems, confronting the agencies in the current far from easy situation on the information market. It was decided to hold such meetings regularly in order to resolve the arising problems of cooperation.

Conclude Meeting

LD1902223293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By Mikhail Aleksandridi; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] The contours of a single information space for the Commonwealth have become more clearly defined following the meeting of representatives from the information agencies of eight of the former republics of the USSR, which came to a close in Moscow today. The heads of those states forming the Commonwealth may now have to tackle the issue of establishing an information structure for the CIS. Such a proposal is contained in the final statement from those participating in the meeting, and they managed to reach agreement on some of the rules of play for the new information market. In particular, journalists from the agencies agreed to show balance and correctness when the subject is interethnic relations or the personalities of the leaders of sovereign states. Details of future cooperation were not elaborated though. Even now, one can say that with its strictly equal basis, it should be geared toward a large-scale exchange of reliable information and jointly seeking ways of resolving technical and financial problems.

Little Baltic Reaction to Moscow City's Embargo on Trade

PM2302111393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 1

[Reports by K. Markaryan and G. Sapozhnikov under the general headline: "Does Charity Begin With 'Outsiders'?"]

[Text] The Russian-speaking minority in Latvia and Estonia has at last acquired a reliable champion. As we have already reported, the mayor of Moscow has officially announced the cessation of trade and economic ties with Latvia and Estonia. Because "the rights of the Russian-speaking population in these countries are being discriminated against and infringed."

What They think About This...

...in Riga

The official authorities prefer not to react to Luzhkov's announcement of economic sanctions against Latvia and Estonia on account of discrimination against the Russian population in these republics. Commentaries in the local press are also quite restrained. Only in radical nationalist circles is it believed that Luzhkov's position demonstrates Russia's entrenched imperial ways.

...in Tallinn

So far there has been no official reaction by the Estonian organs of state power or government to Moscow City Hall's decision to cease economic ties with Estonia has not yet ensued. The newspapers are keeping quiet. Politicians, it would appear, are also not particularly upset on this account. We asked Vello Saatpala, chairman of the Estonian State Assembly Commission for Foreign Affairs, to comment on this incident:

"This is yet another step against Estonia. It neither surprises nor alarms me—we are independent now: Exports exceed imports, and more than 60 percent of trade turnover goes to the West. Only 17 percent is with Russia. You cannot frighten us any more with such phenomena, although, of course, we do not wish such sallies against us."

At a government press conference Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar added that, if Russia is trying in this way to influence Estonia, it is deeply mistaken, since the Estonian economy is already too strongly reoriented. This measure will primarily hit Russian [russkiye] enterprises (former enterprises under union jurisdiction).

Russian Troops Seen as 'Detonator' of Social Upheaval

OW2202181793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1725 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 200,000 Russian military personnel in the Baltic states are in an extremely difficult situation, and if they are withdrawn and moved back to Russia "without the necessary care," they could become "a detonator of major social upheaval," say representatives of the Reform in the Army Russian parliamentary group.

Members of the group, which is led by Vitaliy Urazhtsev, visited units of the northwestern group of troops, stationed in Latvia, from February 17 to 20, and then held a press conference Monday [22 February] in Moscow.

The deputies said there was mass discontent among military personnel in the Northwestern Group of troops on the policy being conducted by the Russian Defense Ministry, the president, and parliament. They say that as a result of the policy, "unlimited corruption on all levels" reigns over Russian forces stationed in the Baltics, who are plagued by "the unlimited sale of equipment, food, and fuel by Russian military personnel" and the "irresponsibility of officials."

Representatives of the Reform in the Army group stressed that the situation of Russian military personnel and their families is complicated by the uncertainty of their status in the Baltics.

"Despite the lack of real oppression of Russian military personnel, there exists in Latvia a keen, calculated discrimination against the army, which Latvia wants not only withdrawn, but thrown out," said Deputy Vladimir Anishchev, a member of the group, in an interview with BALTFAX.

Anishchev said that one form of this discrimination is the system of payments which exists between Russia and Latvia, which enables Latvian commercial banks and enterprises to manipulate funds transferred for the troops' maintenance, and the troops get cheated.

The Reform in the Army deputy group plans to actively participate in the work of the Russian delegation in interstate negotiations with Latvia. In the beginning of March the group also plans to conduct parliamentary hearings on the problem of withdrawing troops from the Baltic states.

Retired KGB General Says Opposition Leader Was Agent

OW1902150693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The reforms currently taking place within Russia's security service are of a superficial nature, the retired KGB General Oleg Kalugin has said. Speaking at a conference called "The KGB—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", Kalugin said that the essence and character of security services in Russia had never radically altered.

The retired general said that "the only person who ever showed the KGB his fist was Nikita Khrushchev, an action for which he paid. Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to do something, but this was too late, and the efforts of Security Minister Viktor Barannikov to undermine this organization are also proving futile now." One example given by Kalugin was the size of Russia's Ministry for Security, which had a staff of 140,000 as opposed to the 20,000 employed by the FBI in the United States. The combined total number of staff of both Barannikov's department and that of Y. Primakov (the Foreign Intelligence Service - IF [INTERFAX]) was almost half a million.

In Kalugin's view it would be appropriate to speak of trust by society in security bodies only when their staff would cease from engaging in intrigue and begin to assume those functions relevant to the state's security. Making the service politically neutral and reducing the number of staff to sensible proportions would be a good start, Kalugin said, followed by legislation giving citizens guarantees against interference by the special services in their personal lives.

Kalugin also claimed that material for the article "Agents of Influence", which had recently appeared in the "SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA" newspaper, had been passed to People's Deputy Sergey Baburin by the security ministry. Baburin was, Kalugin said, an agent from the Omsk KGB Department who went under the code name "Nikolay".

Vadim Bakatin, the former Soviet KGB chief, said in the lobbies of the conference that a revolutionary transformation of the security services would be very difficult to achieve as a long and evolutionary path was needed for this.

"The KGB cannot be more democratic than society until society itself becomes such. It would be naive to claim that the special services have become democratic, the former minister said.

Bakatin also considered that to exaggerate the danger of today's special services was also unnecessary. He simply warned the new democracy not to demonstrate any hostility to them. "Yet another battle front in today's circumstances is not needed," he stressed.

Government Presidium Views CIS Trade Ties

PM2202145793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "CIS Market Remains Priority for Russia"]

[Text] "On trade and economic relations with CIS countries"—this was how the main issue on the agenda of the session of the Russian Federation Government Presidium held 18 February and chaired by V. Chernomyrdin was worded. Goskomsotrudnichestvo [State Committee for Economic Cooperation With CIS States] Chairman V. Mashchits delivered a report.

According to Vladimir Mikhaylovich, cooperation with CIS states remains a priority for Russia despite all the difficulties that arose after the collapse of the USSR. "Wars" have flared up in the credit, financial, and customs systems, as a result of which trade has collapsed. Thanks to desperate efforts made last year it has nevertheless proved possible to create a legal basis for cooperation. However, the results of this are not very comforting. Under the intergovernmental agreements that were signed, approximately 70 percent of Russia's deliveries to former union republics were fulfilled. For example, 75 percent of oil deliveries were fulfilled, 70 percent of coal, 107 percent of gas, 59 percent of fuel oil, and so forth. The flow of goods into Russia was less impressive. Thus 55 percent of Ukrainian and 37 percent of Belarusian meat products were delivered . Total imports of vegetable oil came to 23 percent of the prescribed amount, and sugar totals came to just 7 percent.

And here, the keynote speaker stressed, another "war" has become evident—in the sphere of prices—where Russia has lost out. The fact is that the level of prices of goods supplied to Russia was about 0.7 percent of the world price, whereas prices of goods exported from Russia were 0.6 percent of world levels. As a result Russia has lost about 2 trillion rubles [R]. Right now Russia's favorable trade balance with these countries is about R3 trillion. But this has basically been formed by Russia's offering technical credits. It is time to stop this practice: Partners should look for ways of trading with Russia in other areas, including through international organizations.

All year, the Goskomsotrudnichestvo chairman went on, attempts have been made to save the ruble zone. The result is that no state is currently prepared to agree to a tight monetary and credit policy and national banks are not coordinating their actions, with the possible exception of Belarus. The conclusion is that inflation is being exported to Russia and the ruble cannot therefore remain a single currency. The Central Bank of Russia needs to start quoting the currencies of Commonwealth states in relation to the Russian ruble as soon as possible.

How will cooperation work in future? Mashchits suggested focusing attention on coordinating efforts in the sphere of investment projects. Last year mutual competition led to a sharp decline in CIS countries' export prices. Antidumping measures began to be taken against them. Everybody lost out by such an absurd trade. Admittedly, coordination already exists at sector level. Within the former Ministry of Railways structure, for example. Otherwise a train leaving for a destination somewhere in the Baltic or Central Asia would probably not be returned. It is also necessary to define trading positions with territorial formations such as the Dniester Republic, Nagornyy Karabakh, Abkhazia, and so on. Their envoys travel to Moscow and request economic assistance, which irritates the states concerned. Trade with them should be conducted through commercial structures.

The lengthy debate on the report eventually focused on a problem that has long been a sore point: What sort of relations should be given priority—within the CIS framework or bilateral? Examples were cited of instances where many collective decisions have remained on paper and understandings have not been observed in bilateral ties. Thus all agreements with Kazakhstan on deliveries of grain to Russia at contractual prices have been revised—a telegram has arrived from Alma-Ata quoting prices well above the world level. V. Chernomyrdin eventually posed the fundamental question: Can Russia exist without the countries of the former union? Apparently not. Last year Russia's commodity turnover with these countries was twice as much as turnover with countries further afield. Nor can Russia's immediate neighbors exist without Russia. Thus Belarus and Kyrgyzstan are prepared to embark on close economic cooperation with Russia, at times even to the detriment of their own sovereignty, because their transactions have shown that with the switch to world prices they will require two or three budgets. It has been decided to maintain those economic ties for which there is no alternative, where one specialized plant exists for the entire Commonwealth. Or working ties. As for the rest, a gradual transition to free trade is needed. The premier also focused attention on the need to impose order at customs facilities as soon as possible. "Copper is leaving Russia via Estonia," he said. "Oil—approximately 8 million tonnes—is being reexported via Ukraine...." However, he did not say how monitoring is to be established.

The government presidium also examined a number of statutes on Russian Federation ministries and departments.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Feb

LD2002073393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 20 ITAR-TASS—The rivalry between the legislative and executive branches of authority is in the focus of attention of today's newspapers. The president's press service circulated on February 18 the draft agreement between the federal legislative and executive authorities on the stabilisation of the constitutional system for the period until a new constitution is adopted, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. On the same day President Yeltsin spoke on Russian TV and set forth his proposals. Commenting on his proposals, the publcation of the Russian Defence Ministry points out that the head of state suggested two ways to overcome the political crisis: the first one is the all-Russian referendum, at which the nation will express its will, and the second one is difficult, strenuous talks with the aim to reach agreement.

However, Chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov is rejecting Yeltsin's proposals, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. In its opinion, the draft constitutional agreement, put forward by President

Yeltsin, is almost perfect: It relieves the government of the everyday control, hampering its work, both on the part of the president and the parliament. "In the current situation the president's plan improves so dramatically the shift towards the parliament, existing now in Russia, that the parliament (and especially the congress) cannot but feel hurt. This is why their reaction is easy to predict: they will say "no", the newspaper writes.

Commenting on the proposals of the head of state concerning the stabilisation of the constitutional system, PRAVDA points out that they boil down to the following: "The president acquires the right under certain circumstances—which are rather easy to create—to dissolve the parliament". The newspaper writes further that it came to know that Yeltsin is planning to address the nation and warn it against the threat of the territorial disintegration of Russia. According to PRAVDA, the main purpose is to call for emergency measures and present Russians with a fait accompli—the creation of some official body under the president's supervision, which will concentrate full authority in its hands. In other words, the objective is to ensure diktat without any referendums, congresses of people's deputies and parliaments, the newspaper writes.

TRUD believes that "the controversy between the two branches of authority has no positive basis. "The closer April 11—the day the all-Russian referendum—the stronger are the attacks exchanged by the top executives of the legislative and executive authorities of Russia." Immediately after Russian president made a tv address to the nation, Chairman of Parliament Khasbulatov, who is visiting Novosibirsk to attend a conference of senior executives of state legislative and executvie authorities of regions integrated in the Russian Federation, actually turned down his proposals.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article by its political observer Aleksandr Golts, which deals with the problem of national accord. According to the newspaper, the executive and legislative authorities organised a round-table conference which in the current situation should unite representatives of various political forces, in order to promote the establishment of national accord. However, the newspaper continues, "as soon as one round-table conference was held under the aegis of the government and parliament, it was followed by another. Participants in the second round-table conference were going out of their way to prove that the first one did not reflect fully the whole of Russia's political spectrum." according to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, "we have an amazing capacity to turn every reasonable idea into an absurd one."

PRAVDA publishes an exclusive interview with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic [title as received]. Touching upon the problem of the civil war in Yugoslavia, Milosevic pointed out that it was mostly the result of external factors. He believes the destruction of Yugoslavia is a grave crime, into which certain international forces were involved. "I shall tell you frankly that Germany's policy is behind all those developments. The destruction of both our and your country is in the interests of the German-Catholic alliance. It is in their interests that blood is spilled in our two countries," he said.

Press Review for 23 Feb

LD2302063493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0555 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—By ITAR-TASS:

All Russian newspapers today carry articles dedicated to the Fatherland Defenders day. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star), newspaper of the Russian Ministry of Defence, frontpages an interview with President Boris Yeltsin.

The president described the role of the armed forces as the "guarantor of societal stability", the defender of the native land and the guardian of the territorial integrity and independence of the state.

"We do not view any country or a coalition of countries as our adversary either in the West or in the East," the president emphasised. "Our foreign policy principle is to strive for the establishment of a belt of goodneighbourly friendly states. A new doctrine and a new military ideology of Russia must proceed precisely from these premises," he said.

Touching upon military development matters, Yeltsin pointed out that the military doctrine would proceed from the premise that war is not regarded now as a means to attain political, economic or other ends. "We reject wars, the use or a threat of the use of force," the head of state said.

"The Soviet Army—75 Years" are the words that open up the front page of PRAVDA. The newspaper carries an interview with the former Soviet defence minister, Marshal Dmitriy Yazov.

"It is now clear to almost everyone that the arrest of Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov in the August of 1991 was necessary, first of all, for those who dreamt about breaking up the Soviet Union and its armed forces. One has to note with bitterness that the great army that defeated the Nazis is no more. Some people across the ocean rub their hands in glee at the thought," PRAVDA observes.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA also runs an interview with Marshal Yazov. The veteran, who devoted 50 years of his life of the armed forces, shared his thoughts about the armed forces of Russia. "However bitter it sounds now, it must be stated that only fragments remain from the integrated and the world's strongest armed forces", Yazov pointed out. He said the army was betrayed by politicians.

"The break up of the army began from the moment of the elaboration of materials for talks on reductions in

conventional arms in Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals. Mikhail Gorbachev, the architect of 'new thinking', and his associates Eduard Shevardnadze and Aleksandr Yakovlev were the initiators of this and subsequent blows to our armed forces," Yazov maintains.

Newspapers highlight the work of the all-army Officers Assembly held in Moscow. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (Independent Newspaper) describes the assembly as a "farce". The illegal all-army officers assembly, the newspaper observes, "brought in a verdict against Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev at the officers' court of honour. The 'defendant' was accused of betraying the motherland."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA believes that 269 delegates from 32 regions of the country discussed the major tasks of the officer personnel in the period that is critical to the native land. Officers' speeches revealed an ominous picture of a purposeful wrecking of the Army and the Navy in every respect by the top military-political leadership of the country.

Writes PRAVDA: "A direct destruction of the armaments and military hardware of the Russian Army is under way in front of the whole world. The most efficient combat-ready units are being hurriedly disbanded, notwithstanding the setback during the autumn draft into the Army. And all this is being accompanied with a massive discharge of patriotically-minded officers under the guise of 'depolitisation'".

Vice Admiral Rudolf Golosov shares his thoughts in PRAVDA about the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-2). He believes that "the juggling with warhead reduction figures in the START-2 does not reflect the main thing, namely, that the treaty is not in favour of Russia".

The military specialist said "the structure of the U.S. strategic triad remains practically unchanged, whereas it is stipulated in the treaty that Russia should sharply change the structure of its strategic nuclear forces, virtually bringing it into line with the U.S. structure, which, incidentally, the U.S. has long been seeking."

Newspapers report the tour of Siberia by Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov (PRAVDA), the ethnographic problems of subCarpathia (Ukraine) (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA), a shady deal for the sale of MiG-29 aircraft (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA), and other developments.

U.S. Conference Links Conditions to Aid for Russia

PM2302103193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "It Is Not Worth Russia Counting on Major New Credits From America. Participants at U.S. Congress Conference Make Aid to Moscow Conditional on Withdrawal of Troops from Baltics and Ban on Export of Missile Technology"]

[Text] Washington—Aid to Russia may be totally halted if the U.S. President considers that Moscow has broken international regulations on the export of missile technology—and informs Congress of this.

Aid may be cut by 50 percent if the President does not inform Congress by 1 June of the current year that serious and fundamental agreements have been reached on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics.

This Thursday a highly placed State Department official mentioned these provisions of the so-called Freedom Act, according to which Russia and other countries of the former Union are to be allotted in the region of half-a-billion dollars in economic, financial, and in particular technological aid.

Speaking at a conference on the problems of aid to the former USSR which was held in the Congress building, the State Department official made it clear that Russia's agreement to supply India with rocket engines, an agreement which President Yeltsin confirmed during his recent visit to Delhi, may very well be classified as such a breach. True, the State Department representative did make the proviso that, as he said, exceptions to the rules were possible and hinted that everything depended on what kind of report William [as published] Clinton chooses to put before Congress.

However, is not the question of what kind of aid package the Clinton administration is preparing—if indeed it is preparing one—much more important than the fate of that aid package which the Bush administration had prepared before it?

The conference in Congress, which was addressed by very representative figures, including influential senators and government department staffers, did not even provide an approximate answer to this. Democrat Senator Bill Bradley, who was at one time destined to become secretary of state in the Clinton administration, could only express the hope that Clinton's program will be marked by a bold and innovative approach to the solution of Russia's problems.

For me personally the conference reinforced an existing impression that it is not worth our counting on any major new sums in credit, subsidies and the like, and that it will be much more useful to begin to search for more effective ways to use that capital which Russia has already been given—and the quicker the better. There are in the main two reasons for the Americans taking such a stance: their own need for capital for the intensified restructuring of the American economy, and uncertainty regarding the political situation in Russia.

The conference reinforced another impression I had: However much the United States has an interest in the development of the reforms in the former Union, it will never take such measures of aid or assistance as would even slightly or indirectly undermine the economic interests of America itself. As one of the participants clearly said, there is certainly no sense in stimulating through investment those sectors of the Russian economy whose export output will undermine the corresponding sectors of the American economy—e.g. the steel and textile industries.

Incidentally, a number of speeches clearly expressed the thinking that the obligations which the West, including the international financial organizations, had placed on Russia are far from being met and are being fulfilled very slowly. Unfortunately, none of those who said this produced any actual figures—as opposed, for example, to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who in a recent interview with IZVESTIYA, using clear statistics prepared within the bowels of the fund, demonstrated that almost all the commitments had already been met.

Specifics were on the other hand present in the speech of the major financier and benefactor George Soros, who put forward what is in his own words an "unusual" proposal: to create in Russia a system of social protection in which a minimum wage would be paid to the workers of bankrupt enterprises, minimum pensions would be paid, and subsidies would be applied to the wages of such workers of state establishments as, for example, militiamen and teachers. All these subsidies and supplements should, according to Soros's plan, "be paid directly and in dollars alone." All this, as I understood from the benefactor's pronouncements, will require the laughable sum of $10 billion a year. But he is convinced that its effect will be colossal.

TV Roundup Views Clinton Address; Nixon Visit

LD2102173193

[Editorial report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1450 GMT on 21 February carries an eight-minute roundup by announcer Aleksandr Vasilyev on the events of the week, including U.S. President Clinton's Congress address.

Following a summary of the address, over video, Vasilyev adds: "Presidential keynote addresses of this sort customarily touch upon all aspects of the policy, both domestic and foreign, of the new White House boss. However, Bill Clinton made only one comment about foreign policy: The United States is the sole military superpower. And that was it. To the disappointment of those who were counting on the help of the United States, not a word was said about Russia. What is there

to prove? The United States has no intention of allocating any half-way significant resources to help the citizens of the Russian Federation. It is primarily prepared to help the former land of the Soviets with advice alone. There are optimists among Americans, though, who are trying to persuade us that we can indeed count on U.S. help. Former U.S. President Richard Nixon is one such."

Over video of Richard Nixon entering the Ostankino studios, correspondent Vladimir Sukhoy recounts Nixon's itinerary in Russia. "We filmed him at Ostankino, just before the Red Square program was filmed. Panorama is grateful to the Red Square studio staff for giving us the opportunity to put a few questions to the 37th President of the United States, who will be called 'Mr. President' in the United States for as long as he lives."

Sukhoy asks Nixon what scale of a aid is realistic at present. Nixon says the problem now is that all efforts are to be focused on the U.S. economy, so state assistance is limited; the real opportunities lie with private American businesses, and Nixon sees the possibility of about $500 billion being invested in the Russian economy over the next four to five years.

Asked about the rights of Russians in the Baltic states, Nixon says he has just visited Latvia, and like all Americans, is well aware of the problems and the need for the rights of Russians to be protected. He adds: "As far as Latvia and other countries are concerned, I should point out that there are no reliable guarantees of protection of human rights there, and this may have a negative impact upon relations between these countries and the United States—for we always attribute a great deal of importance to human rights affairs."

On the prospects for Russo-U.S. relations, Nixon says: "A democratic Russia and the United States can and should enjoy good relations, that being in the interests of both countries. Democratic Russia is now a friendly partner, not an enemy for the United States, and in the future Russia and the United States could become a mighty duo to support peace throughout the world. That by no means signifies that we have to agree with one another on everything. Russian foreign policy does not have to repeat U.S. foreign policy parrot fashion, but it does not follow from that in vital issues like proliferation of nuclear weapons Russia and the United States cannot act together, using their influence to ensure that these dangerous weapons do not fall into bad hands," or into the hands of madmen, Nixon concludes.

Yeltsin Aide Says U.S. Made 'Great Mistakes' in Russia

AU2102191593 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 20 Feb 93 p 4

[Interview with Sergey Yushenkov, deputy head of the Russian Information Center and chairman of the Radical Democrats in the Russian Parliament, by Livia Klingl in Moscow; date not given: "Shadow Plays by the Communist Party Dictatorship"]

[Text] Moscow—Sergey Yushenkov is deputy head of the Russian Information Center, which is "marketing" the policy of President Boris Yeltsin, and chairman of the Radical Democrats in the Russian Parliament. DER STANDARD reporter Livia Klingl conducted the following interview with him in Moscow:

[Klingl] How do you see the conflict between President Yeltsin and the president of Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov?

[Yushenkov] There is no conflict between the two men; what happens is that the lawmakers want to take over tasks of the government.

[Klingl] How much power does Yeltsin still have?

[Yushenkov] He cannot implement his policy because the Russian central bank is controlled by the republic's Supreme Council and not by the president or the government. The same applies to the office of the prosecutor general. All courts are controlled by Khasbulatov. He expresses the will of the majority in the People's Congress, which still exists on the foundation of the basic law of the old communist times.

[Klingl] What is the biggest political problem?

[Yushenkov] The Constitution that divides the tasks in the state. The deputies do not accept it. These are shadow plays by the communist party dictatorship. Even the constitutional court is controlled by the Supreme Soviet, that is actually by Khasbulatov.

[Klingl] How can the conflict be resolved?

[Yushenkov] One can try to reach an agreement between the president and the Supreme Council. However, I doubt that it would be implemented. It would have to be accepted by a two-thirds majority in an assembly of all people's deputies. If it is not, a referendum would have to be held. Yet, the parliamentarians can even reject this referendum.

[Klingl] Is Yeltsin a hostage of the deputies?

[Yushenkov] Absolutely.

[Klingl] Has he already lost his power?

[Yushenkov] I am not saying that he has lost his power but that the majority of the people's deputies have lost their minds.

[Klingl] How great are Yeltsin's chances to win the majority in a possible referendum?

[Yushenkov] I am almost sure that he would get the majority if a major information campaign were launched. The people have to be clearly told that there is either this peaceful way or dictatorship and civil war.

[Klingl] Would Russia return to dictatorship if the referendum is not held?

[Yushenkov] Yes, it would return to the dictatorship by the People's Deputies. Whom this assembly would then proclaim as dictator is irrelevant.

[Klingl] Does the West share some of the responsibility for this situation?

[Yushenkov] That Russia is at a crossroads also has something to do with the West. Great mistakes have been made—not by Germany, but by the United States. They promised credits and other help, but almost nothing has come.

[Klingl] What is the scenario for the future, in your view?

[Yushenkov] I can absolutely imagine the restoration of communism. The reconstruction of the structures of the communist party is under way. If the West forgets to help Russia's democracy it will later have to pay dearly.

[Klingl] To what extent can the communist structures be rebuilt—as far as Poland or Romania?

[Yushenkov] The reconstruction of a pro-communist regime can, for example, stop the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Germany. All of Eastern Europe, with the exception of, perhaps, Poland, could become communist again.

Aide Meets U.S. Officials, Gets Assurances of Assistance

PM2202101993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under "News Item" rubric: "Boris Fedorov's Meetings in Washington"]

[Text] Boris Fedorov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, has held conversations in Washington with U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. Fedorov briefed them on the government economic stabilization program in Russia. The American side confirmed support for the Russian leadership headed by President Yeltsin and expressed the Clinton administration's readiness to provide practical assistance in implementation of the Russian reforms.

Clinton Confirms 'Tough Line' Policy Toward Iraq

PM1902133793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 3

[Maksim Gan report: "Washington Has No Intention of Improving Relations With Baghdad"]

[Text] Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn's hopes of some improvements in relations with Washington following the new administration's move into the White House have not materialized.

After a somewhat protracted pause, U.S. President Bill Clinton finally confirmed his commitment to G. Bush's foreign policy course in relation to Iraq. A document that Clinton sent to U.S. congressional leaders has been circulated in Washington, emphasizing that Saddam Husayn's regime still presents an "exceptional threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy, as well as to peace and stability in the region."

Baghdad has repeatedly declared at various levels its readiness to normalize relations with the West, in particular with the United States and Britain. Particular hopes were pinned on the new President.

But Clinton's statement is evidence that the White House intends to take a tough line in relations with Baghdad and not ease off the economic sanctions introduced in August 1990 in response to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Primarily because Husayn has not fully met the demands of the UN Security Council resolutions stipulating the terms for an end to the war in the Persian Gulf.

Japan To Show 'Positive Attitude' on Yeltsin Invitation

LD2102113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 21 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo February 21 TASS—The Japanese Government has decided "to show a positive approach to the question of an invitation to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to attend the forthcoming Group-of-Seven summit in Tokyo in July and reaffirm the course towards cooperation in giving aid to Russia".

This stand is expected to be set out during German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Japan, the newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN reported on Sunday. Kohl's visit begins on February 26. He is now touring a number of Asian countries.

With reference to an anonymous high official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the newspaper points out, however, that before a final decision on the invitation issue is taken, Tokyo intends, in particular, to follow the development of the internal political situation in Russia. The opinion of the ASAHI SHIMBUN is that practical consultations among G7 countries on the issue will apparently begin not earlier than March.

Tokyo's "positive approach" to the invitation issue by no means signifies, however, that Japan has changed its principled course in relations with Moscow.

The Japanese Government still adheres to the growing balance principle in relations with Russia, the principle which makes an increase in aid to Moscow dependent on progress in a settlement of the territorial problem, the ASAHI SHIMBUN notes.

'Expert' Advises Linking Japan Visit to Political Events

OW2202164993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin should be in no hurry to visit Japan, the International Secretary of the Russian Social Democratic Center and senior expert at the Secretariat of Russia's Constitutional Commission, Derenik Abramiyan, told IF [INTERFAX]. According to him, the time of such a visit should be linked with the development of political events inside Russia. "The coming spring will see clarity in this field," the expert said.

According to him, a visit to Japan will not be beneficial for Yeltsin now, since it might affect his rating within Russia: "the taking of any one-sided decision will aggravate the internal political struggle". The expert believes that the situation might change for the better after the G-7 summit to be held in July.

Lately Japan began to pursue a more flexible policy in connection with the "northern territories" issue, he noted. "We must take advantage of this," the expert said. Russia's Foreign Ministry, he explained, ought to take "diplomatically thought-out" counter steps.

According to the expert, the Japanese have realized that the dispute cannot be resolved at a stroke, even if political methods involving the G-7 are used. Tokyo came to understand that it's necessary to include more people in the discussion of this dispute, make the Kuril population interested in this, give support to public diplomacy.

In the expert's view, Japan has changed its policy largely because of the fact that Russia's president postponed his visit to Tokyo. "That was an absolutely right step," he said. A change in the political situation within Russia, a number of presidential decrees designed to improve socioeconomic progress in Sakhalin Region and the intensified activity of South Korean companies also had an impact on Japan's stand.

As for the Russian Foreign Ministry, during last autumn's parliamentary hearings concerning the Kurils, it "displayed neither a global concept of its foreign policy, nor a clear attitude to the territorial dispute", the expert said.

Now, according to Abramiyan, the time has come for Russia's Foreign Ministry, particularly for Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, who is in charge of the "Japanese direction", to induce the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations to stimulate "active joint work aimed at developing the "northern territories". [quotation marks as received] "Individual organizations and entrepreneurs should be given more freedom," he explained. Diplomats should visit the disputed areas more often and talk with the local people, he added.

St. Petersburg Mayor Urges Japanese Support for Reforms

LD2302111993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo February 23 TASS—"The political forces of Russia and Japan must stop using the 'Northern Territories' issue as an argument in their domestic political manoeuvres and realise that both countries are not merely neighbours but strategic partners," St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak told a press conference in the Tokyo National Press Club today, replying to an ITAR-TASS question. Sobchak is currently visiting Japan at the invitation of the Osaka government and mayor. "It is important," Sobchak added, "to switch the Russo-Japanese relations from the realm of domestic political emotions to the sphere of normal international legal relationships".

The St. Petersburg mayor expressed the opinion that the economic situation in Russia was sufficiently stable and Japan could render broad support to the ongoing reforms without any apprehensions. In his opinion, the continued progress of Russian reforms should inspire definite optimism in the Japanese leadership, because "processes of privatisation are making progress and market relations are being promoted throughout Russia while politicians in Moscow are arguing over the referendum".

Foreign Ministry Denies Report of Ultimatum to DPRK

PM2202152793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov and Maksim Yusin: "Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Rejects Report by MAINICHI Newspaper"]

[Text] A note published 17 February in MAINICHI, one of Japan's biggest newspapers, has had a big impact. The article concerns the recent visit to Pyongyang by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze.

In particular it notes that the true purpose of the visit was not to review the military agreement with the DPRK, as stated in the official announcement, but to issue an ultimatum to the North Korean side regarding Pyongyang's attempts to lure Russian nuclear experts to work on a project which North Korea is secretly involved in. According to the report in MAINICHI, Kunadze threatened Pyongyang that diplomatic relations would be broken off unless these attempts stop, and it seems he secured a limp promise that they would not continue.

The note was sent by MAINICHI's Washington correspondent and compiled on the basis of a leak from an

unidentified informed source in the U.S. Government. At the same time, MAINICHI and subsequently the KYODO agency note that the U.S. side was informed of the Russian deputy minister's activities via a detailed account of Kunadze's mission sent from Moscow to Washington.

Commenting on the report in the Japanese newspaper, a diplomat from Georgiy Kunadze's entourage who participated in the trip to Pyongyang stated: "The claims by the MAINICHI correspondent are untrue. We issued no ultimatum to the DPRK authorities, no discussion relating to the severance of diplomatic relations was initiated, nor was the issue of luring Russian nuclear scientists to work on North Korean nuclear projects examined. Nor was a 'detailed account' given to the U.S. Government. Of course, we notified the Americans and representatives of other nuclear powers about some of the results of our visit to Pyongyang within the framework of working consultations. There is nothing surprising about this if you consider the extent to which Moscow, Washington, and other capitals are concerned about everything relating to the DPRK's nuclear program. The Americans, incidentally, also notify us of their diplomatic steps and contacts in this sphere."

Bosnian Envoy Says Vance-Owen Plan 'Delayed-Action Mine'

OW2202164593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Vance-Owen plan lays foundations for long-term warfare and continuous ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia," Bosnia-Hercegovina's envoy in Russia, Ibrahim Dzikic, told IF [INTERFAX].

According to him, to divide Bosnia-Hercegovina and form monoethnic cantons there would set a bad example for multinational states, such as Russia. The plan is a delayed-action mine under the process of gaining peace in the Balkans, said Dzikic.

Bosnian Muslims, Dzikic pointed out, have always been a European Slavic people; they reject the ideals of Islamic fundamentalism, which "have no prospects for spreading themselves". An outbreak of fundamentalist sentiments will be possible, only if the Vance-Owen plan is implemented, he said.

With reference to relations with Russia's Foreign Ministry, the envoy said that official diplomatic relations have not been established yet. He made it clear that in conversations with him Russian Foreign Ministry officials linked the issue of diplomatic recognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina with real progress in the process of peaceful settlement in former Yugoslavia. According to him, this casts doubt on the objectivity of representatives of Russia's Foreign Ministry, which has already established diplomatic relations with all former Yugoslav republics, except Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia.

Dzikic confirmed reports that "Russian volunteers" had taken part in military actions on the side of the Serbs. There are no mercenaries in the Bosnian army, he said, since "we need weapons, rather than soldiers". According to him, Bosnia's mission in Moscow has already received telephone calls from Russian citizens, who offered to fight on the side of Bosnian Muslims, but were rejected.

Commentary Views Russia's 'Active' Policy on Yugoslavia

LD2202142193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Commentary by station commentator Aleksandr Shakhin]

[Text] The Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, has confirmed in an interview that there must be a very balanced policy in relations with Yugoslavia. Exclusive support for either side will not produce a settlement. Radio Moscow's commentator Aleksandr Shakhin believes Moscow has thereby made it quite clear that it is going to be very active in the Balkans.

A weekly news review on Moscow's national Channel One on Sunday night showed a report from Bosnia that must have shocked many. A reporter interviewed Russian men who volunteered to fight on the side of the Bosnian Serbs. Although there were not very many such people, their decision reflected the sentiment of a certain part of Russian society: A helping hand must be extended to the Serbs. Incidentally, the same ideas have been voiced by some members of the Russian parliament, who have ever more resolutely demanded that the leadership should support the Serbs in what is in effect a fratricidal war.

Apparently, certain explanations are required. The top Russian diplomat has already presented his. In the first place, Mr. Kozyrev said that Moscow would strictly observe the United Nations against Serbia [sentence as heard]. At the same time, he came out in support of the strict embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia. The Russian foreign minister recalled that the embargo was a law adopted by the world community and it must be observed by all sides. These days this law is being violated by the Muslim and Croatian sides. Mr. Kozyrev said that Croatia should be prepared to face tough sanctions if it continues military operations delaying the settlement of the conflict. He also said that Bosnian Muslims should not count on any foreign military intervention on their side. All the warring factions are responsible for the bloodshed in Yugoslavia, and there must be no presumption of guilt or innocence on either side in the matter of war crimes.

As for Russia's help for the Slavs in Serbia, it must be clear that Russia has been playing an ever more active role in efforts to bring about a peace settlement of the Bosnian conflict and its opinion is reckoned with. Moscow can and already has used its influence on the Belgrade leadership and the Bosnian Serbs in order to persuade them to agree to reasonable compromises and thereby to restore an early peace to that long-suffering country. As a matter of fact, what the Serbs really need is not being accused of all the deadly sins. The same yardstick, the same international principles must be applied to all parties to the conflict, and Russia is prepared to respect this.

Russians, Others Participating in Yugoslav War

LD2102222893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 21 February, in its regular "Novosti" newscast, carries a two-minute video report by correspondent Sergey Gryzunov. Reporting from Bosnia, he says that it is a well-known fact that Russian citizens are taking part in the war in the former Yugoslavia, and warns the viewers that they are about to see a film which was "shot outside Serbia and Montenegro, in one of three Russian subunits stationed on the territory of Bosnia, in the village of Skelani, where journalists are not admitted". He goes on to say that "only Serbs and about 20 Russian lads from St. Petersburg are living here at present. How come these Petersburg residents are here? There is a smooth-running system of recruiting volunteers, transferring them to Yugoslavia and then to the front, which is financed by private Russian and local companies. As far as we know, about 200 Russian citizens are taking part in the war on the side of the armed forces of Bosnian Serbs. Therefore, rumors about thousands of Cossacks are groundless."

Gryzunov notes that the backbone of the detachment are Cossacks who took part in the war in Afghanistan, the Dniester region and Hercegovina. He interviews some Russians, one of whom says that by defending the Serbs he is defending Russia.

The correspondent concludes by saying that "the war in Bosnia has turned into an international war. Not far from here, just behind the hill, there are positions of a detachment of Muslims which has mercenaries from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in it. As for the Croatian armed forces, they include French, British, German and Dutch citizens. These are not numerous at the moment but the very fact that they are here by no means helps to put an end to the war, but, on the contrary, fuels it."

Parliament, Foreign Ministry Near Agreement on Bosnia

MK2002145393 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 9

[Andrey Yedemskiy article: "Foreign Ministry and Supreme Soviet Are Harmonizing Positions on Settlement of Bosnian Conflict"]

[Excerpts] On 19 February, Russian special envoy Vitaliy Churkin took part in the negotiations on a settlement of the Bosnian crisis at UN headquarters in New York. Meanwhile, the Russian parliament resumed its discussion of the Yugoslav situation and adopted a number of documents calling for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe that although they have common aims in settling the conflict, the Foreign Ministry and parliament still have different approaches. [passage omitted]

While Mr. Churkin was in New York, the Russian Supreme Soviet on 18 February recommended that in the United Nations, the government raise the question of lifting the sanctions against Yugoslavia "if the Security Council does not adopt sanctions against Croatia." Observers point to the traditional ambivalence of the documents adopted by the deputies. For instance, it is somewhat confusing that the appeal to the parliaments of the former Yugoslavia republics notes "with satisfaction" the positive progress made in the Bosnian settlement, but in the same breath points to the ineffectiveness of the "measures taken earlier." The deputies have again given the executive a task without giving any thought to the ways of implementing it.

At the same time, the attitude reflected in the parliament document largely coincides with the views of the Russian Foreign Ministry on a settlement of the conflict. Back on 5 February, the Russian Foreign Ministry submitted a plan to the Security Council that provided for the possibility of sanctions against Croatia. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts note that the documents approved by the Supreme Soviet will help the Foreign Ministry and Yuliy Vorontsov, Russian ambassador to the United Nations, to invigorate their efforts in getting the Security Council to consider the Russian plan.

Intelligence Chief Visits Germany To Boost Contacts

LD2202155993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By Crime Press correspondent Sergey Oleinik for TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—A representation office of the Russian External Intelligence Service will soon open in Bonn, according to competent sources. Crime Press approached Russian Intelligence Service spokeswoman Tatyana Samolis for comments on this important move.

"Indeed, the question of exchanging representatives was discussed during Russian External Intelligence Service Chief Yevgeniy Primakov's [visit] to Germany. Each side has the right to have its intelligence missions in other countries for purposes of interacting with the local special services," Samolis said. "But this is not an alternative to intelligence services as such, as intelligence continues, using all its specific methods and means".

According to available data, the opening of a Russian office in Bonn is a response to the earlier appointment of a German representative to Moscow, where he has been working since the autumn of 1992.

Primakov's press secretary said that the main aim of Yevgeniy Primakov's visit to Germany was "to look for fields where the interests (of the Russian and German special services) coincide. She said that such fields include the stabilization of the situation in Europe, especially in Yugoslavia, combatting narco-business and international terrorism and control over the non-proliferation of the mass destruction weapons.

The leader of the Russian External Intelligence Service visited Germany at the invitation of Bernd Schmidtbauer, coordinator of German Special Services, who is also a state minister under the German chancellor.

Yevgeniy Primakov visited headquarters of the German Intelligence Service (BND) in Pullach and met with its leaders. He also met the leader of the Federal Department for the Protection of the Constitution Eckart Wertebach.

German Environment Minister Holds Talks in Moscow

LD2302120893 Hamburg DPA in German 1055 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—Federal Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer started political talks in Moscow today. He met with Russian Deputy Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Meshkov.

According to reports from the German delegation, Toepfer intends to mention inter alia the taking back by Russia of spent fuel elements from central and eastern European states. A new Russian environment law prohibits the acceptance of worn out fuel elements. Furthermore, the German side is to advise the Russian parliament on the elaboration of new laws on the environment.

Yesterday Toepfer visited the Ukrainian Chernobyl nuclear power station which is finally to be shut down this year according to an official assurance from Kiev.

This afternoon the environment minister is opening a joint German-French Office for Cooperation in Matters relating to Reactor Safety in Moscow. It will be run by the German Association for Plant and Reactor Safety (GRS) and the ISPN, its French sister organization. The office is intended to help eastern European states to reach western safety standards.

Grachev: Russia Selling Weapons To Ensure Nation's Safety

LD2002000593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by A. Pishchayev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia will sell arms to other countries only to ensure its own safety, said Pavel Grachev, the minister of defense, at the exhibition of defensive weapons in the Arab Emirates. We have given up the ideological but not the political approach to arms trade, the defense minister pointed out. It is true, business has now come to the fore with us because selling arms brings profits to the treasury. It was therefore that Russia brought its latest equipment and not old models of weapons to the biggest exhibition in the Near East. On the whole, we tried to compete with 350 foreign corporations from over 30 countries. However....

[Begin Grachev recording] I think that stage of the conversion we had at the beginning—fortunately it has now ended—was not thought out very well. That notorious principle of ours—it is not allowed, things cannot be touched, cannot be taken out, cannot be given to anyone—has resulted in all markets, including those in the Persian Gulf countries, being mainly filled with weapons from Western Europe, the United States, and other developed countries. [end recording]

Obviously, such a policy could not help but tell on our performance at the exhibition. According to the Arab press, Russia has sold almost nothing. Perhaps the presentation at the exhibition was not impressive enough. The main reason, however, according to the Arab press, is that the Arab Emirates is still wary of the new partner. Yet, Russian weapons were appreciated: Two prizes out of seven were awarded to Russia for the best performance in field firing and the most complete exhibition.

Kozyrev: Russia Not To Yield 'Geopolitical Role'

PM2202130593 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 21 Feb 93 p 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Sandro Ottolenghi in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ottolenghi] Is redressing the balance, which Yeltsin talks about, simply adjusting your course or something more?

[Kozyrev] I will answer you very frankly. We get the feeling that somebody intends to take advantage of presumed weakness on our part. Our reaction is a consequence of that, even if it may not be to peoples liking, or it may have people crying out about a return to the cold war.

[Ottolenghi] But is that the way?

[Kozyrev] Of course not. We do not intend to return to the cold war. But neither do we intend to give up our geopolitical role. We wish to stay present, in diplomacy but also in trade relations. And when I say this, I am making a concrete allusion to the sale of technology and arms. Russia is a great power in this sector, and it is not putting its factories into liquidation.

[Ottolenghi] Do you not think that this may increase alarm in the West?

[Kozyrev] It may not be to people's liking; I am well aware of this. But I really do not think that there is any cause for alarm. Perhaps only our competitors may be alarmed.

[Ottolenghi] Let us stay on the topic of diplomacy. How must we interpret your opening to Saddam Husayn's Iraq?

[Kozyrev] Russia has an embassy in Baghdad. And we intend to use it in order to try to find a solution to the tension between Iraq and the United Nations. We were against the invasion of Kuwait, but now we feel that a door must be opened for the Iraqi leadership, and we do not rule out an intermediary role.

[Ottolenghi] You have broken Saddam Husayn's diplomatic isolation. But you have also sent volunteer guerrilla fighters to Baghdad....

[Kozyrev] That was a private initiative. As far as I know, those men are not taking part in military operations.

[Ottolenghi] What is your position regarding the crisis in the former Yugoslavia?

[Kozyrev] We have been in favor of keeping the country united from the outset, and we did not want the Yugoslav flag in the United Nations to be hauled down. This was for a very simple reason: We feared, and we fear, a boomerang effect which could reach as far as Moscow. As you well know, our country too is a country with very different ethnic groups, with different religions, with peoples often in conflict.

[Ottolenghi] In the West, however, people talk openly of a return on your part to Pan-Slavism.

[Kozyrev] The West has difficulty in understanding problems of this type; we believe we understand them better. I think, however, sticking to the facts, that a compromise solution must be found: We support the Vance-Owen plan, but we are against sanctions, of whatever type.

[Ottolenghi] When you say that the West does not understand, are you referring to the new U.S. Administration?

[Kozyrev] No, I am talking more in general about all those who accuse Russia, the Russian Government and diplomacy, of being the hostage of reactionary forces. Those which do not want "to give in to the Americans." Of course we must not give in to anybody. Not because we are anybody's slaves, but simply because, as I said before, no one must forget that, with all its problems, Russia is still a great power. With a precise role of its own.

[Ottolenghi] So is there a different relationship, for instance, between Moscow and Washington?

[Kozyrev] Let us say that we have moved, or we are moving, from a slightly utopian model of "let's all be friends" to a more realistic approach to problems. Which are still the same ones: Disarmament, the balance of forces, international presence. I could say that we have grown up, from a diplomatic viewpoint as well. And that is true with regard to both the West and the East. Or the former Soviet bloc countries.

[Ottolenghi] You lived through the collapse of this bloc personally. People are saying today that Moscow is nostalgic for the Berlin Wall and also for all the other walls. Can that be true?

[Kozyrev] The collapse was sudden, and to some degree unexpected. But if Mikhail Gorbachev had been against it, he would have sent tanks to defend the walls. He did not, and quite rightly, in my view.

[Ottolenghi] Do you believe that Yeltsin and Bill Clinton will get on?

[Kozyrev] I think they will be able to get on. They often call each other, as I do the secretary of state. Talking to each other seems a good start to me.

Tajikistan's Abdullodzhanov To Meet Leaders, Businessmen

LD2202090293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0842 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Tajikistan Council of Ministers, has arrived in Moscow within the framework of the preparation for an official visit by the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet chairman which is to take place within the next few days. This was revealed by the plenipotentiary mission of the Tajikistan Republic in Moscow. He will meet leaders and other members of the Russian Government and businessmen.

Meets With Kozyrev

LD2202174593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a meeting today with Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov, head of the Tajik government, RIA reports. The Tajik premier expressed the wish that Russia will render assistance to his country in stabilizing the situation. Both sides stressed the need to hold a Russian-Tajik summit in the near future. It is planned to sign a bilateral treaty on friendship and cooperation during the summit, which is more likely to take place in March.

Grachev Meets Norwegian Armed Forces' Chief

LD2202151593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—The Commander-in-Chief of the Norwegian Armed Forces, Admiral Torolf Rein, arrived on an official visit in Moscow today.

Commenting on the aims of the visit, Russian defence minister, Army General Pavel Grachev told ITAR-TASS before meeting with the Norwegian military commander that the sides were planning to discuss cooperation and security in northern Europe and the influence of military structures on the Nordic environment.

The talks will also focus on the state and prospects for bilateral cooperation in the military field, interaction between the military structures of Scandinavia and the Leningrad military district, as well as between the units and formations deployed on the Russo-Norwegian border.

Also on Monday, Admiral Torolf Rein met with the chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov.

Denies Problem in Military Ties

OW2202180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1654 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax and TASS correspondents on Monday [22 February] before meetings with Norwegian supreme military commander Admiral Rein that there are no serious problems in relations between the armed forces of Russia and Norway. The Norwegian commander arrived in Moscow on 22 February for an official visit.

According to Grachev, he and the admiral intend to discuss the prospects for cooperation between the two countries' military departments and questions of reinforcing security in the Scandinavian region. In particular, emphasized the Russian minister, consideration will be given to the possibility of military cooperation between Norwegian formation and detachments from the Leningrad military command.

Grachev also said that he intended to touch on questions connected with the 200-mile zone in the Barents Sea. In his opinion, this theme "has not yet produced serious disagreements." Russia and Norway disagree on the question of delineating economic zones and on the continental shelf of the Barents Sea. At the last round of negotiations, the foreign ministries of the two countries made some degree of progress regarding the northern part of the disputed region.

Rutskoy, Jordanian Prince Discuss Developing Ties

LD1902175793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—Russia and Jordan can actively cooperate and develop bilateral ties, Russian Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy said at a meeting with Jordanian Prince Raad Bin-Zaid who is on visit in Moscow.

As press secretary of the vice-president of Russia Vasiliy Titov said, the prince relayed a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin from Jordanian King Husayn. He said the parties discussed the state of and prospects for the development of Russian-Jordanian relations, as well as some problems connected with the Middle East settlement.

Aleksandr Rutskoy pointed to the need to make the necessary changes in the legal basis of inter-state relations in order to remove all restraining elements hampering normal bilateral cooperation.

The vice-president of Russia praised Jordan's position on the Middle East settlement and stressed the need for giving more dynamism to the Arab-Israeli talks in order to speed up the achievement of practical results.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Issues Decree To Boost Personnel for Reform

LD2302135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on securing the economic reforms with qualified personnel. The decree, called "on personnel procurement for ensuring economic reforms," was signed on February 22 and aims at the implementation of federal programmes for boosting small and middle-size businesses and forming a vast layer of proprietors and entrepreneurs as a social basis for the economic reforms underway in Russia.

The decree envisages to set up an international centre of personnel training programmes including an international business academy. It also lists educational establishments to provide a basis for carrying out these programmes.

The Russian president backed the initiative by executive bodies of Russia's republics, territories, regions, autonomous entities and by local authorities to establish a chamber of private entrepreneurs aimed at speeding up the formation of a mass layer of highly-qualified businessmen. He agreed to the proposal moved by the international foundation for backing up economic reform in Russia and by some other organizations to create an information and communication infrastructure with a view of explaining the government's economic policy.

Transition Needs Reforms in Fuel, Energy Complex

OW2302135393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talking at a press conference in Moscow on Tuesday [23 February], Russia's minister of fuel and energy, Yuriy Shafrannik, said that in the coming week Russia is likely to make a decision in regards to setting up a general coordinating body for CIS countries to regulate supplies and investments into its fuel and energy complex (FEC). In his words, the heads of governments of some of the CIS countries will be meeting in Tyumen in March to address the problems the FEC has come to grips with.

In the opinion of Mr. Shafrannik, economic reforms in Russia won't succeed unless its fuel and energy complex is reformed. He said he was concern that until now the FEC has not been given priority in the economic policy of the RF [Russian Federation] government. In the meantime, Mr Shafrannik insists that market type relations should become the key element in the FEC reform.

In touching on the prospects for liberating fuel prices, the Russian minister acknowledged that "they should have been liberated at the onset of the reform." This measure today, he said, is not likely to remedy the fuel and energy complex and lead it out of the crisis. It should be resolved in combination with many other related issues, such as, for example, the problem of non-payment. At present, FEC users owe the branch nearly 1.8 Tn [trillion] rubles, against the FEC debt to other branches in the area of 1.1 Tn rubles.

Yuriy Shafrannik is in favor of attracting foreign and CIS investments into the Russian oil and gas industry, calling "fairly good" the prospects for attracting Western investments into the branch.

Energy Minister Says Oil Output To Drop 12 Percent

LD2302121893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Oleg Deineko]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Oil and gas production dropped in Russia in 1992 and oil output will further decrease this year, according to Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik.

Gas production went down by 0.4 per cent compared to 1991 and the gap totalled 2.6 billion cubic metres.

The drop in oil and gas condensate production was more significant and reached 62.3 million tonnes, Shafranik told a press conference on Tuesday, adding that drilling of wells has practically stalled and the number of wells staying idle totalled 32,000 by the end of 1992.

In 1993 oil production is predicted to be 12 per cent lower compared to last year, while supplies of gas and coal will increase by 1.1 and 0.5 per cent correspondingly. Electricity production will remain at the 1992 level, according to the minister.

To increase the production of oil, which gives Russia 60 per cent of its hard currency proceeds, it is necessary to raise prices and float capital of enterprises of the industry, according to Shafranik. Price hikes would hardly boost inflation as the current petrol price comprises only 25 per cent of the cost of oil production and processing, he said.

The reform in the fuel and energy complex should begin with denationalisation, according to Shafranik. 80 per cent of enterprises of the industry are switching to new forms of property at present, he said, adding that another major task is to stabilise the work of the industry this year.

The stabilisation can be provided for by foreign investments, mostly from CIS countries, conversion of defence enterprises and better use of existing potential, the minister said.

Chernomyrdin: State Should Control Privatization

LD2302112993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Podyampolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin believes the state should control privatisation in the country and create an effective mechanism of managing both state and private property while privatisation is under way.

However, the management should not be the old administrative one, but flexible, i.e. allowing to use the existing potential to the utmost, he said on Tuesday addressing a meeting of heads of State Property Managing Committees of Russian regions.

Chernomyrdin said it is inadmissible that enterprises reduce production after they become joint-stock companies. He radically opposes also the practice when various everyday services and public utilities are turned by their new owners into liquor stores or other shops.

"Without a (state) mechanism of privatisation it will be very difficult to implement economic reforms", the prime minister said, adding that privatisation must be continued, but under the state management. "The process of floating capital should not be stopped, but it should be managed correctly", he said.

Gaydar Says Inflation 'Greatest Danger'

OW2302112093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Acting Prime-Minister Yegor Gaydar believes that inflation has become the greatest danger for Russia. Since last September the average monthly rate has been 25%. In an interview for the new Moscow paper SEVODNYA he said Russia has not slipped into a disastrous whirlpool of developments. The size of the country and the inertia of the economy are the greatest brakes.

However, according to Gaydar, if inflation keeps at 25% for a long time, it will be a risk not stabilization factor. Within the next six months the monetary system might be undermined any moment with the following closure of regional markets, the dollarization of the economy, a sharp drop in broad money supply and the removal of money from turnover. Gaydar also thinks that confidence in the stability of transition to a market economy is declining which encourages the outflow of capital and holds back investment.

Gaydar said the greatest danger in the long run is insufficient political support for market-oriented development. There is no proper mechanism of protecting private property, land ownership or contract law. With comparatively weak reforms it is quite possible to end up with a stagnant economy reproducing social problems which in Gaydar's opinion might lead to a situation comparable to the one in Germany in the late 3Os. Pauperization together with a nostalgia for the lost empire make such an explosive combination that a "Weimar syndrome" is not impossible in Russia.

On the program of the cabinet Gaydar said that its key points are correct. Still under strong pressure from the farming lobby subsidies have been increased to agriculture and related industries.

Among serious risk factors Gaydar named the lack of coordination in the credit policies of the government and the Central Bank. Last year, for example, technical credits to other CIS countries totalled one trillion rubles becoming an additional source of inflation.

The former acting prime-minister also said that he does not permit himself to interfere in the routine activities of the cabinet, even though in individual cases he offers advise to the president and government.

Chubays Discusses 'People's Privatization' at Conference

LD2302093993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—"As many as 46,000 enterprises had become private by January 1st, 1993, in Russia as a whole. The budget profit, received from privatisation, amounted to 164 billion roubles," Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays said in his opening speech to a meeting of the heads of government and chairmen of the state property management committees from the constituent republics of the Russian Federation, which opened here today. The meeting is also attended by Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray.

In his 45-minute speech, Chubays noted the uneven pace of privatisation in the republics of the Russian Federation. Whereas privatisation of small-scale enterprises has been fully completed in the Karachayevo-Chekess Republic and by 88 per cent in the Tuva Republic, the figure for Yakutia is only three per cent and for Mordovia—10 per cent. Chubays, who is also chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, said that the slowed down process of privatisation "arrests the progress of reforms in Russia as a whole".

Speaking about privatisation in 1993, Chubays stressed the need to step up cheque auctions: "Privatisation cheques have been issued and the privatisation demand of the population has whetted. Now this demand has to be met". He said that large-scale auctions would herald

to the population the beginning of "People's Privatisation". Chubays particularly noted the need for state support to the cheque investment funds. He said that 300 such funds with 700 subsidiary offices had been registered by now in Russia as a whole.

Today's meeting is expected to discuss the progress of privatisation in the constituent republics of Russia, delimitation of state property between the Russian Federation and its constituent republics, results obtained from the introduction of the system of privatisation cheques in the republics, and a draft model status of republican state committees for the management of state property, vested with the rights and duties of territorial agencies of the All-Russia State Property Committee.

Denies State To Surrender Bulk of Public Property

OW2302111993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1054 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays has announced that over 46,000 companies were privatized in Russia in 1992 adding 164 Bn [billion] rubles to the budget. He spoke on Tuesday [23 February] at a Moscow conference of the heads of governments, chairmen of property committees and authorized representatives of republics of the Russian Federation.

Chubays said the greatest difficulty this year will be to draw a dividing line between federal and republican property. The government has drafted a document actually revising its December 27, 1992 resolution on federal and local property. Chubays did not rule out the possibility that the law on privatization vouchers and the 1993 government program now debated by parliament might be recalled to finalize matters related to members of the federation and their rights.

Chubays said the State Property Committee will never accept the idea of surrendering the bulk of public property to working staffs which is known as the fourth pattern of privatization.

Chubays named among the most important pressing tasks the organization of privatization auctions. He claimed that by May this year the State Property Committee will set up a telecommunication system covering all auction centers in the country allowing every person to take part in any privatization auction in the Russian Federation.

'Source' on Plan To Sell Weapons To Finance Oil Industry

OW2202195593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will probably use the proceeds of exporting its weapons to finance the oil industry, a highly placed source close to the Russian Government told Interfax. He also noted that a decision to this effect "will be made if we manage to make at least $6 billion by exporting weaponry."

The export of weapons has, however, slipped from $11 billion in 1991 to $4 billion last year. Mikhail Maley, a presidential advisor on conversion of the war industries to peaceful uses, admits that unless the export of weaponry expands, the defense industry cannot switch to nonmilitary production. Until now 20 percent of equipment for the Russian oil industry are manufactured by defense factories.

According to government experts, state-owned arms exporting companies Oboronexport and Spetsvneshtekhnika intend to step up the marketing of Russian weaponry, chiefly inexpensive artillery systems, small arms, armored personnel carriers, and front line air defense systems, in the Asian Pacific and Middle East regions. Officials of export agencies believe that Russia can sell $2.5 to 3 billion worth of these weapons in 1993.

S-300, Tochka-U, and Tor-M1 air defense systems, multiple rocket launchers Smerch, self-propelled howitzers Msta, helicopters Ka-50 and Mi-24, fighter planes MiG-29, tanks T- 80U, and Diesel-powered project 877 Varshavianka submarines that have been demonstrated at the INDEX-93 exhibition in Abu Dhabi are believed to be most promising now.

Russia has sold to Iran two Diesel-powered submarines at $300 million (with the starting price of $342 million) and negotiated sales of submarines with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and, possibly, Bahrain.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Arms, Military Intelligence Embargo

OW1902181893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 18, President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree formulating embargo imposition procedures on the sales of arms and combat equipment, as well as on the export of Russian military know-how, including business tours by Russian military experts and training of foreign personnel. The same document regulates the procedures for the transfer of raw materials, equipment and dual- purpose technology to any foreign party, including CIS countries.

The press service of the Russian president has adopted this measure in implementing the decisions in that regard by the UN Security Council and in protecting Russia's national interests. [sentence as received]

In compliance with this document, the stance of the Russian Federation, which it adheres to when it votes in the UN for the introduction of embargo, is coordinated with all the interested Russian ministries and agencies. Whenever necessary, it can be address by the RF Security Council. The president will make decisions to impose embargo on supplies of arms and combat materiel, military know-how services, as well as supplies of raw materials, and transfer of equipment and dual-purpose technology, proceeding from the national interests of his country.

Supervision over the observance of the sanctions is vested with the RF Inter-Agency Commission for Military and technological Cooperation with Foreign Countries.

Grachev Discusses Army Status, Readiness

PM2302114593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 93 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev by IZVESTIYA military correspondents Nikolay Burbyga and Viktor Litovkin on 22 February; place not given: "Pavel Grachev: Things Are Hard for the Army Today, Just as They Are for the Whole People"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] On 23 February 1993 Russia will celebrate Defenders of the Fatherland Day for the first time. Army General Pavel Grachev, the first Russian defense minister since the Great October Socialist Revolution, met with IZVESTIYA's correspondents the day before the holiday.

[IZVESTIYA] Nine months ago, when you became defense minister, you declared your chief task to be the social protection of servicemen. Are you satisfied with the work you have done?

[Grachev] Yes, there was indeed such talk. I was even rebuked: You should be concerned about combat readiness, I was told, yet you are beginning with social protection. But I believed and still believe that this question is the main one today. Without ensuring a normal human life for the servicemen and the members of their families one cannot count on a strong army.

And if we are speaking of satisfaction then of course there is none. Not everything I conceived has been successful. Although I have managed to do something. For instance, last year we increased pay six times. And as of 1 January this year we were able to increase it a further 170 percent. Of course, military pensions will also be recalculated.

Some people assert that money is not everything. Yes, that is so. But today officers have reached an average living standard and their families can survive from one pay packet to the next, and that is already something. Especially as a number of benefits have been introduced: food rations, free rail transport for families from the regions of the far north and regions with similar status, free travel on city transport....

But my main problem is housing. The withdrawal of troops, refugees... I am frequently criticized for not keeping up with the pace of life, and the criticism is justified. I once promised that I would not withdraw the troops from the Baltic states onto an empty field, but that is what I am doing. Although it may be said that it is not Grachev that is withdrawing them but Russia and the government, that there should be a state policy and a state program here. All that is so.

But I am responsible for it and assume all responsibility.

We are now seeking nontraditional methods of emerging from the crisis—we are attracting foreign firms and civilian construction organizations and involving cooperatives and public funds. There are already results. Whereas before no more than 2,000 apartments a year were constructed in each district, this year in the North Caucasus district alone we will commission 10,000.

[IZVESTIYA] What is the condition of Russia's nuclear-missile weapons, what is the combat readiness of the Russian Army?

[Grachev] It has been possible to rapidly restore the combat readiness and the reliable command and control of troops that were disrupted with the collapse of the Union. The troops are commandable, although there are very many problems, including problems with the draft. But nuclear weapons are indeed under control. We have reviewed our plans for using the Strategic Rocket Forces. In Ukraine and Belarus they have been withdrawn from all levels of combat readiness, their operational command is exercised by Moscow, their technical status is being monitored, and maintenance work is being undertaken. The problems that arose in mutual relations with Ukraine are gradually being resolved.

[IZVESTIYA] Quite recently the Army demonstrated its combat readiness and might at major operational-tactical exercises. It has been several years since these were last held. Why? Because of poverty?

[Grachev] No, because it was not expedient to do so. Although, of course, every exercise costs many millions, the cost now runs into billions, and we have to be careful with the people's money. But the fact is that we used to base our exercises on the experience and style of World War II. During exercises we would unleash strong bombing assault strikes, carry out out a lengthy artillery preparation, combined tank units would then rush into the breach, and then motorized infantry units would broaden the area of the breach... And then off we went.

We must be realists. Things are no longer the same. The nature of a future war, if it breaks out, will be radically different. Even if only conventional high-precision weapons are used, it will immediately turn into nuclear-chemical war given the presence in many countries of

nuclear electric power stations, chemical plants, hydroelectric installations and dams, and enormous areas will be flooded or set ablaze. It is impossible to reproduce this during exercises.

With regard to local wars of the type that occurred in the Persian Gulf, we must be prepared for these. We must rehearse air-space and airborne assault operations, and operations involving mobile forces using tanks and motorized infantry. Admittedly, we do not have the resources for this at the present time. But we military men are striving to perform such exercises at least at division or army level.

[IZVESTIYA] But who do you assume to be your opponents in these exercises and outside them, and who do you think of as your allies?

[Grachev] Military policy is determined by the state. Russia has proclaimed that it will not interfere in other states' affairs. We have no enemies today. Whereas we meant NATO when we used to refer to "Westerners" during exercises, and Japan and South Korea when we were fighting "Easterners," this is no longer the case. Nevertheless the danger of conflict remains, and we are taking it into account. Therefore we are strengthening our southern borders, particularly the North Caucasus Okrug. If a local conflict is a possibility, it will flare up in the south.

As far as our allies are concerned, this means first and foremost those countries which have signed the collective security treaty with us, but it could also include other peaceloving states. Within the framework of UN Security Council decisions, for example.

[IZVESTIYA] The institute of political workers and also the the Main Military-Political Directorate of the USSR Armed Forces were abolished 18 months ago. What has the army gained from this?

[Grachev] The gain has been enormous. The army has now been depoliticized and departyized, so there is no need to hold people and to have a main political directorate which decides all questions in the interests of a single party and its apparatus.

But at the same time we have retained and will continue to retain the institute of educators based on the former political workers.

It is true that these officers' status was low and I have signed an edict on introducing the post of deputy commander for educational work. And this is not a speciality for life. Someone who shows himself to be an excellent specialist can later become a commander. A commander can become a deputy for educational work in a higher post. And so on. Every skilled and industrious man will have prospects.

[IZVESTIYA] You mentioned the reorganization of the armed forces and their reduction but the number of generals' posts in them, some specialists assert, is increasing. How can that be?

[Grachev] They are not specialists but political intriguers. Those who do not know the real state of affairs in the army. Here are the specific figures. The number of generals in the Armed Forces is now 2,218. Only 1,547 of them have generals' posts. The correlation is as follows: One general to 1,262 soldiers and 312 officers.

An example. In the USSR Armed Forces in 1987 the correlation was as follows: One general for 530 soldiers and 169 officers. In the past six years or to be more precise from 1987 through 1992, the number of generals in the army was reduced by 3,815, and more than halved in the Defense Ministry central apparatus. And this process is continuing. Now there are 669 generals in the Defense Ministry apparatus.

[IZVESTIYA] But some of them have engaged in commerce, have entered corrupt structures. The press cites specific names—the leadership of the Western group of forces, the Defense Ministry apparatus...

[Grachev] I do not deny the fact that there are abuses in the army. We are struggling against them mercilessly. Some 459 men have been dismissed from the army for abuses in the sphere of commerce banned by my edict and in trade. Some 3,711 have been disciplined while criminal charges have been brought against 31 men, especially major leaders, including in the Western Group of Forces.

Here we have dismissed 106 men for various transgressions while 559 have been disciplined and criminal charges have been brought against 10. All this has been done, incidentally, with the aid of Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the group.

Attempts have frequently been made at the highest level to persuade me that he should be dismissed. But I ask: What for? Give me specific facts. There are no facts.

The mafia structures have launched a slander war against Burlakov and the group's leadership. At my order he cut off their tail, preventing them from profiting from the group's movable property and real estate—so they moved to the attack.

And today you can writer whatever you like without bearing any responsibility for it. Thus Prokhanov recently "indicted" me with engaging in commercial activity.

It was not quite as DEN wrote. I belonged to commercial structures when they were allowed, not as a private individual but as the official representative of a specific legal body—as first deputy USSR defense minister and chairman of a Russian Supreme Soviet committee. The idea at the time was simple—obtaining nonbudget funds for the social protection of servicemen and the construction of apartments for them.

But when the abuses began we banned servicemen's participation in commercial structures. And today I too believe that it is not the business of the military to engage in commerce.

[IZVESTIYA] And one more question, Pavel Sergeyevich, about the Defense Ministry's cadres policy using the example of a specific person—Major Lopatin, about whom our newspaper wrote recently.

[Grachev] Our cadres policy is clear. All people of value to the army should and will serve as long as stipulated by the law.

No one drove Major Lopatin out of the army. After his deputy's powers came to an end he, like many other army representatives in the USSR Supreme Soviet, was offered several posts to choose from in accordance with his education and experience of service. I remind you that the major was a political worker and chief of a university of Marxism-Leninism.

Very many officers who are deputies continued their service but he refused. He wanted to stay in Moscow, as close as possible to the White House and the government, in the apartment allocated to him for the duration, and to travel abroad on official trips... Well, a free man can do what he wants. That is his choice. What has the army got to do with it?

[IZVESTIYA] A recent, unfestive, unpleasant topic has been generals' dachas.

[Grachev] The topic is indeed unpleasant and sets the teeth on edge. How many times have I already spoken on this subject.

Let us begin with the fact that the privatization of dachas was implemented in accordance with the law. That is unequivocal. The basis of this is the president's edict in which he authorized servicemen and, incidentally, and I stress this, not just servicemen, to privatize dachas which used to be official.

Second. Let us take a closer look at who has acquired these "ill-starred" dachas. Some 70-80 percent have been acquired by veterans of the Great Patriotic War and the armed forces, participants in the fighting in Afghanistan, heroes of the Soviet Union, and even twice heroes of the Soviet Union. Even at the end of their lives have they not received the right to live like human beings? Or is it better to give these buildings to rich young men?

If someone thinks that a general was born a general then he is very wrong. Let him look for such a "lucky" fellow among the Russian generals' corps. As a rule they all began as soldiers and cadets. They have endured it all. Thy have traveled a path which not everyone can cope with. Well, instead of thanking them for this, should the state put them out onto the street?

I think our society should gradually rid itself of the bolshevik habit of confiscating and sharing and stop producing people who are all alike. Every person should receive what he deserves.

I am sure that the complexities of the present transitional period will subside and Russia's soldiers, officers, and generals will occupy in the public awareness the place of which they are worthy by right.

But we shall be frank and objective come what may and today Russia can be proud of its defenders. Both the veterans and the young men.

Congratulations on the holiday, loyal sons of the Fatherland.

Grachev Answers Journalists Questions on Army

LD2302103493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev by announcers Tatyana Krasnova and Sergey Torchinskiy, with various correspondents in the studio; from the "Without Retouching" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Grachev] Good evening, esteemed viewers. Good evening to everyone taking part in this program. [passage omitted] I won't hide the fact that I enjoy talking with journalists, and I am even rebuked sometimes by friends for being excessively open with the media. I realize that I should expect extremely varied and topical questions today, and I'm ready to give answers about whatever you ask. [passage omitted]

There are far more important matters than the dacha question, or who has been rude about me and what I think about that, such as, I believe, the fate of our country, of the Russian state, and also of the Russian Army, which is only nine months old. I often wonder how much our society knows about the young Russian Army, and I often conclude that it doesn't know everything. [passage omitted]

Let me say this. We need the Army. We now need an opportunity to complete the reforms that have been begun, to ensure that our people have housing, to bring living standards in the military into line with existing legislation and, in the final analysis, to be able to do our job, which is to ensure combat readiness. Unfortunately, however, there are some who would like to distract the military from purely military matters, to drag officers into the political battle, to use the Army for their own political ends. Worst of all, in my opinion, truly ominous calls have been made recently, such as "Officers to the barricades" and "Officers to arms."

We all know these old slogans, and we all know where they lead. Those who try to sow confusion in the Army and call on it to take up arms should stop and think what could become of that. Do they think of how many human lives it could cost as they pursue their grand designs? Do

the people of our state, the Army itself included, really want this? I can take it upon myself to say: The Army doesn't want this, not least because the military and their families are the first to suffer in any upheavals. It's okay if officers are risking just their rank or position—but what if they're risking their lives? The military wants stability more than anyone else.

I think that many will agree that the Army at the moment is the sole reliably governed and well organized body in society. This is clearly what is worrying certain well known politicians who are doing all they can to destroy this body and blow it up from within. I have said on many occasions that criticizing me is one thing. Ask me what you want. But it is impermissible to stir up things in the Army, to suspect it and provoke it into impulsive and half-baked actions. That is simply criminal.

Right now, the Army is often accused of being conservatively inclined. The top brass—and I regard that term as derogatory, senior officers is better—is supposedly conservative, which is why the reform is being held up and everything is going badly. But there are many in the Army who are innovative and receptive to new ideas. And it is they who are now defining the shape of our armed forces. And the reforms that we have planned and are already working on are proceeding, I can assure you. With difficulty, but they are proceeding. Incidentally, if our desire to maintain a reliable command system in the Army is regarded as conservatism, our desire for it not to be dragged into political recklessness and bloody chaos, then may God give us more such conservatives. Some are now trying to cast a shadow on the Army, accusing it of freeloading. The military is supposedly demanding a bloated budget and demanding some kind of privileges for themselves. But haven't the military earned them? Is it the fault of the military that uniformed men spilled their blood for 10 years on the fields and in the mountains and deserts of Afghanistan? Was it not the military who at the behest of leaders past spilled their own blood—and that of civilians—in Vilnius, Tbilisi, Sumgait, Karabakh, and other flashpoints? Is it not the military who are now preventing bloody communal strife in various areas? Have the military not earned their keep? The Army has many problems, but despite all the difficulties I can say with sincerity that the Army is under command and absolutely reliable.

Tomorrow, 23 February, is our holiday. We will continue to mark this military festival. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all who are now at duty stations, all who are currently serving in the Army, their parents, and veterans of the armed forces on this excellent holiday. I wish them good health, happiness, success, optimism, and confidence in the future.

Forming our Russian armed forces, we rely on the glorious martial traditions of the Russian and Soviet Army. We are trying to take all that was good in those armies. So, as you can see, we have many ideas, plenty to do, and I expect that you will have plenty of questions for me. And I'm ready to answer them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Adzharov, for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] [passage omitted] When you prepare yourself for a program like this one, you read around the subject, and it's all about those dachas, insults, and so on. It just makes you want to cry. We're actually interested in completely different things, first and foremost, the Army's combat readiness. How well it's commanded, how reliable it is; that is, those things that the Army should be good at and what kind of Army it should be. What is your attitude toward combat readiness and new armaments, the really serious things?

[Grachev] Well, to a certain extent I answered that in my opening comments. I would prefer to begin my reply with what our new Russian Army inherited. People who know even a little about the operational structure of what was the Soviet Army....[changes thought] We received districts, divisions, units and subunits that were strategically secondary or even in the rear; that is, districts that, should war break out, would have been busy mobilizing and training people, recruiting military units, and sending them off to the front. So the structure of these districts was such that they had lots of subunits and lots of units, but these were virtually all noncombat units. They were also understaffed. They had the appropriate equipment as well; all our best gear was on the first strategic-defense line, in the Western and Northern Groups of Forces and those districts in Belarus and Ukraine. That's what we inherited, so our main and most immediate task was to restore the command system, a reliable command system for troops and weapons, especially such powerful weapons systems as strategic missiles, the Air Force, and Navy. We have successfully done that.

Second, we had to staff combat-ready units in all districts. We've managed to do that, albeit with difficulty. Third, we had to start forming new combat entities in line with the established structure of our armed forces, and this is proceeding, albeit again with difficulty. As of today then, as I said earlier, only nine months on, we have been able to create an Army that is capable in today's conditions of performing its principal duty, which is to repulse aggression from outside should it arise. [passage omitted]

[Vladimir Gavrilenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent] Pavel Sergeyevich, the dominant theme of our newspaper has also always been the defense capability and the combat-readiness of the armed forces, and it continues to be so today. Naturally, to the extent that it is possible to publish, we publish, and there appears to be a mass of responses. But in recent times, the most significant event about which in general there has been much discussion is the START II Treaty. As you know, you concluded it on 3 January. At the forefront of the readers' response, so to speak, we have taken these responses upon ourselves and, you know, right up to wails about complete disarmament. What is your attitude toward this, especially as you will, after all, have to defend START in the Supreme Soviet?

[Grachev] Yes, to defend....[changes thought] I am making preparations for this defense. Of course, it is difficult in three minutes to describe the START II Treaty in full. The only thing I will say is: First, before fulfilling the START II Treaty, it is necessary to fulfill the START I Treaty, which so far we have not embarked upon. The START II Treaty continues from START I. The only thing I want to stress for those who really do feel that we are allegedly disarming ourselves is that in signing the START I Treaty, some aspects really were detrimental and not to the benefit of Russia and, at that time, of the former Soviet Union—say, in the counting of nuclear munitions on the same aircraft. Under START I, an aircraft and missile carrier was counted as one combat unit, although it had, say, 16 or more nuclear bomb mountings. Under the START II Treaty, we parried this question. Now we count the number of carriers on strategic nuclear bombers.

Apart from this, we have more or less achieved a balance in land- based strategic nuclear weapons. We have silos where at present there are strategic multiple-warhead missiles being replaced by single warhead missiles. We have thus reduced to a significant degree the amount of resources allocated to equipping such silos for single warhead missiles. That's the second point.

Third, most importantly, counts have shown that the number of those nuclear munitions by the year 2000—and there are 3,000-3,500 of them—testify to the fact that with these munitions we not only retain a nuclear shield but remain capable, if necessary, of destroying not only a probable foe but the whole planet, including ourselves.

At present, it is not necessary to speak of the balance of missiles we each have, because nuclear war is a catastrophe for the whole world. Let us turn to the Chernobyl tragedy: One nuclear reactor caused grief, not only to Russia and Ukraine but to the Baltic states and beyond. This tragedy exists to this day. That is what I am talking about.

It is my firm intention to fulfill the START I and START II Treaties—if ratified by the Supreme Soviet, of course—and to go further, but after having included all five nuclear states in this treaty, and to strive for the complete destruction of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

[Aleksandr Sheykin, PRAVDA correspondent] Pavel Sergeyevich, of course I understand that generals ought to have dachas, but this is not the point. The point is the corruption that is currently gnawing away at the Army. Well, I especially took with me a document addressed to the commander, Major General of Aviation Lipatov. Well, the hard currency received from the marketing of used engines must be deposited in 12 foreign banks. It is clear that this is the money that people lose personally. This, then, is what corruption looks like. Aren't you disturbed by the participation in commercial structures?

[Grachev] It is a no mean impediment. The point is that even when the Soviet Army was in existence, in January 1991, there was permission to engage in commercial activities, including in the Army. Well, when this permission reached our military districts, there began an intensive process whereby the commanding officers, in the main, were joining commercial structures. It must be stated outright that, during that period, they began to be more preoccupied with commercial activities than with combat training. Some did this honestly and normally, but a large part of the officer corps got bogged down in corruption. I do not conceal this fact. All this took place before the creation of the Russian Army and the issue of the Russian president's decree banning commercial activities in the Russian Army. My order banning commercial activities followed.

It was, of course, difficult to eradicate by a magic wand what was already well under way—things were sold and paid for. We began to wage a merciless struggle. I must tell you honestly that two current big commanders, one of a district and one of the fleet, received serious disciplinary punishments for conniving at commercial activities. More than 3,000 officers received disciplinary and financial fines; 46 generals and officers have been brought to book. This, in practical terms, made it possible for us to solve the commercial problem, although even now these elements are occasionally making themselves felt.

Quite recently a major general of aviation in the Far East military okrug was exposed as having engaged in commercial activities. Criminal proceedings are currently under way against him. [passage omitted]

[Zhavoronkov] Pavel Sergeyevich, from time to time we are shaken by sensational reports. It was recently stated to us that an officers assembly of Ukraine decided to disconnect their ballistic missiles from the central command panel. What is this? That is, what will happen then? Are we threatened by nuclear war from former Union states, and why does the Russian Ministry of Defense not comment on such statements which so alarm society?

[Grachev] Officers assemblies are all the rage now, and some people seem to think that these assemblies will be running the armed forces in the near future. That is out of the question, and no matter who demands what, the unified command system does exist and all missile systems, including those in the Ukraine, are under that command. At the last meeting in Moscow between the two presidents, Boris Nikolayevich and Ukrainian President Kravchuk, both sides again confirmed that the nuclear missiles are under the control of Russian military and civilian experts. I believe that there are no grounds to worry that someone will remove the missiles, even less that the officers assembly will assume command of nuclear missiles. It has neither the know-how nor the competence or experience, none at all. [passage omitted]

[Grigoriy Nekhoroshev, BBC Russian Service correspondent] Pavel Sergeyevich, you know I have heard many good words said about you, but also a lot of criticism in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab in Tajikistan, which you visited recently. [passage omitted] So why haven't two or three tanks, at least, been brought to those hot spots over the last two years to help people there? After all, they have been driven to desperation. You have seen this.

[Grachev] [passage omitted] Regarding the 201st Division's armaments, I will say that the division is armed with the most modern equipment, while the issue of bringing additional weapons there is being currently solved in practice.

Speaking about the Abu Dhabi exhibition and its purpose—it was organized in order to renounce the stereotypes like: You should not sell! All this belongs to us! We have already come to an extreme point when all the forests from the Volga to Khabarovsk are littered with our tanks in huge numbers; you know this very well yourself. Do you think it is combat equipment? No, it is what we accumulated while other countries were looking for markets, selling equipment and weapons, receiving currency, and using this currency to ensure normal life for their people. Grachev is not going to sell tanks to, say, our potential enemies. But why not to sell to such countries as Kuwait, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Bahrain, or Qatar? Are we afraid of them starting a war against us? Instead, we will get the necessary means to provide human living conditions for our people.

[Nekhoroshev] Pavel Sergeyevich, you have been in Afghanistan and recently you visited Tajikistan. You know that 90 percent of the weapons come from Afghanistan. Do you not think that weapons will again flow to Tajikistan from the very same Bahrain or UAE? After all, there are such cases.

[Grachev] No, I do not think so because, first, I spoke with leaders of those countries; their policy is not aggressive but purely defensive. Second, Afghanistan has accumulated a massive amount of weapons from neighboring states which is sufficient for them to start any kind of aggression.

[Torchiskiy] Pavel Sergeyevich, benefiting by my position as the program's announcer, I will ask the following question. Recently my colleague from PRAVDA and I visited Batumi; we visited border troops and our troops. [passage omitted] Why is it that our boys have to live in quite difficult and exhausting conditions when we all know perfectly well that the Georgian army cannot protect the border? This is one thing, you see. And the other thing: Why do we do this free of charge? [passage omitted]

[Grachev] [passage omitted] Just imagine the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus and the section where our troops are stationed. I will not elaborate for a long time on the subject; I will only say that this is a strategically important area for the Russian Army. We have certain strategic interests there and must take every measure to ensure that our troops remain there, otherwise we will lose the Black Sea.

[Torchinskiy] Another question: For several days an orgy was held under the name of the Officers Assembly. What is the attitude of the Defense Ministry and yourself as minister to this event?

[Grachev] You described it as an orgy, but I will call it a political show. For two days....[changes thought] You got a glimpse of who was in the presidium of this assembly: first of all, all well-known leaders of different political ilk, the National Salvation Front, Zyuganov, Alksnis, Makashov, and, unfortunately, Colonel General (Kachalov) among them. The issues that were examined there had nothing to do with the Army, no doubt about that. Although posing as the Officers Assembly, they were examining political issues and, as I have already said, calls to arms and violence were sounded there. This is outrageous. I believe that this was a political show and that pronouncements by certain individuals should be punished by law.

[Torchinskiy] So you regard this as a criminal offense?

[Grachev] No, not the assembly as such. That is their business. The thing is that it was not held within the framework of the Army.

[Torchinskiy] But your orders were violated, since it was attended by officers!

[Grachev] By retired officers. But if some officers did attend it, it was on my permission and that of district commanders, in order to....[changes thought] After all, it was a closed meeting, for unknown reasons, it was an almost underground meeting, so I had to glean information. So about a dozen officers, whose names I know, attended it. The rest, in general, were officers who had been dismissed from the Army, angry about something, officers and commanders who had lost their posts, including for political reasons, and officers who violated the law by engaging in commercial and entrepreneurial activity. [passage omitted]

Rutskoy Says People, Army 'Indivisible'

LD2302104293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—[passage omitted] It is known that Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov is returning to Moscow today from Finland at the end of his official visit.

"The people and army are indivisible," Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy told journalists attending the wreath-laying ceremony. "Attempts to cancel out our country's entire history cannot be allowed. The glorious former

traditions of the army need to be revived and greater attention should be paid to the military and patriotic education of the young." The vice president noted with satisfaction that a package of important laws concerning the armed forces, including on pensions for veterans and servicemen, was signed on the eve of the holiday.

Wreaths were also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown soldier by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Commander in Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, and Moscow leaders.

Yeltsin Signs Law on Military Service, Pensions

LD2302102693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0940 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin, now on leave, signed the law on military conscription and military service and the law on pensions to people who served in the Army, Interior Forces as well as to their family members.

The president's press service reported this Tuesday that the law on conscription and military service records for the first time the right of citizens to serve in the Army on contract instead of service on conscription or to engage in an alternative service.

The law on pensions to former servicemen will guarantee social stability to Russian soldiers and officers and support the prestige of service in the Russian Armed Forces.

The law lays down that the minimum pension to servicemen cannot be lower than the minimum old age pension. The law provides for various increments to pensions of ex-servicemen and their family members.

The document provides for indexation of pensions, depending on rising living costs and labour remuneration.

Leaders Congratulate Servicemen, Veterans

LD2202203493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today described February 23 as "day of memory and victory, day of the history of our state, the history of the Army covered with valor and glory." He spoke at a meeting devoted to day of the homeland's defender held in the Central Academic Theatre of the Russian Army.

Addressing veterans of the Great Patriotic War, soldiers-internationalists, officers and men of the Moscow Garrison, Rutskoy emphasised that "the process of reforms and democratic transformations in Russia cannot be stopped." Refuting reproaches to the Russian legislative and executive branches of government that reform in the Armed Forces is skidding and veterans are forgotten, he said "the Russian president signed a law on the pension scheme for veterans and servicemen" today.

"Everything that our legendary Army, which learned the joy of victories, deserved should be restored today and the notion of the Armed Forces which was attempted to be fostered in us starting 1985, thus corrupting youth and treating immorally veterans of the Armed Forces, be discarded," Rutskoy emphasised. [sentence as received] He conveyed to those present congratulations from President Boris Yeltsin and wished them happiness and belief in Russia's resurrection.

Analysing the current state of society and the situation in the Armed Forces, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev noted: "The Army is the all-important instrument and attribute of the state, the guarantor of society's stability and political leaders who try to provoke the military to mascular actions and involve officers in the political struggle, while alleging that they act from patriotic positions, are well aware of this. They want to shake loose the Army, split it, blow it up from within to achieve the well-known ambitious goals. Any means are put to use for this purpose: From gross lie, provocative calls for setting up underground committees to staging political shows, including the so-called officers' meeting which was held on Sunday and did not have any support among the military.

"These people who are craving for power should learn once and for all that any attempts to appeal to the Armed Forces in the political struggle are criminal and fraught with the most serious consequences. The command of the Armed Forces will not allow a split among Army personnel and the military's involvement in political experiments and battles. The activity of the Army, the rights and obligations of servicemen must and should be regulated only by the law and the constitution. The military want, first and foremost, stability," Grachev emphasised.

Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Security Chairman Sergey Stepashin read a Supreme Soviet's appeal in conjunction with the celebration of day of the homeland's defender. The appeal says, in part: "All who gave their lives and health for the glory of their homeland, all who stand today in the ranks of the homeland's defenders, deserved the Russians' infinite gratitude. In this dire and watershed period of time, we assure you that we will do everything possible to improve the life of our fellow citizens, servicemen and veterans who gave their best years to the service to the homeland."

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, in turn, said: "This year we will accomplish for the first time in Russia the task of unloading the burden and debt which we owed to our servicemen over many years: We are paying off housing debts." In addition, the Moscow government decided to allot an apartment house with an overall area of 10,000 square meters for the needs of the Moscow Garrison.

Colonel-General of the Medical Service Eduard Nechayev, Russian health minister and head of the main military-medical department of the Russian Armed Forces, joined the congratulations by Russian leaders.

Poll Finds Servicemen Assess Military Reform Positively

LD2202084793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—A poll of Russian servicemen on the eve of the Homeland Defenders Day, carried out by the military-sociological, psychological and legal studies centre of the Russian Armed Forces, has proved the stable moral standards of Russian servicemen, resolved to honestly discharge their military duty.

ITAR-TASS was told at the press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry that most of those polled (55 per cent) have stressed moral principles among the main motivations behind military service: loyalty to the oath and to the military duty, to Army and Navy traditions. Most officers (75 per cent) believe it is impermissible to depart from moral principles. In their opinion, excessive absolutisation of the material and pragmatic aspects of military service, besides certain positive effects, may foster individualism and self-seclusion in military collectives and lead to the loss of the positive emotional aspect of personal and service relationships.

The Army reform was, on the whole, assessed positively. Mentioned among its most tangible results are the Army's and Navy's reduction, elaboration of a legislative foundation for the functioning of the Armed Forces, conversion of military production to meet civilian needs, reorganisation of the central apparatus, implementation of a mixed method for recruiting the Army and the Navy. At the same time, 68 per cent of the respondents are convinced that the pace of the reform should be accelerated, especially in such areas as improvement of the organisation and structure of directing bodies, qualitative perfection of the personnel's professional training, creation of a solid legal basis for military service and guaranteed social protection of servicemen and members of their families. They call for a substantial improvement of the Army's and Navy's material and technical supply.

Supreme Soviet

Georgian Treaty Ruled Out Until Progress on Abkhazia

OW1902195593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conclusion of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia is ruled out until there is tangible progress in settling the Abkhazian conflict, the chief Russian delegate to Georgia ambassador Feliks Kovalev told the Russian parliament on Friday [19 February]. He said Russian officials had never said or hinted that a bilateral treaty may be signed in the near future.

The Russian ambassador said Moscow and Tbilisi had finalized agreements on the legal status of Russian troops in Georgian territory and of the Russian Federation's border guards, who will be guarding the Georgian-Turkish border until the end of 1994.

Chief delegate Kovalev confirmed that the presence of Russian troops in Georgia was going to be extended until the end of 1995. In his opinion the 3.5 years still to go before that deadline will be enough to establish the necessary conditions for moving troops to Russia and building the necessary infra-structures at their new locations in advance. The envoy said that the treaty on the presence of troops may be extended for another three years by mutual agreement.

The chief Russian delegate also said that a Russian-Georgian consulate convention has been virtually finalized. He believes that the convention would become an "important instrument to ensure the security of the Russian citizens on the Georgian territory".

More Remarks by Envoy, Shakhray

LD1902204993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—A treaty to establish basic principles of the Russian-Georgian relations, can be signed only after the termination of the armed conflict in Abkhazia, Russian special envoy and head of the Russian delegation to negotiations in Georgia Felix Kovalev told the Russian parliament here today.

In his words, consultations of Russian and Georgian representatives on the Abkhazian settlement will begin on February 23 in Moscow. Now the states do not have a bilateral treaty with the exception of one on the establishment of diplomatic relations, stressed Kovalev.

The Russian side believes in the first turn the sides should sign and put into effect treaties on military units, an agreement on border troops and a consular convention. The Georgian leadership, in his words, calls for signing of a large package of inter-state agreements at a time. Kovalev expressed the hope the Georgian side will revise its stand. Otherwise, Russia and Georgia will fail to conclude a single treaty, he said.

In his turn, Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray told the Supreme Soviet the Abkhazian conflict should be settled stage-by-stage with political methods. Primarily,

they need cease-fire, separation of warring sides, introduction of peace-making forces, which, in his words, provokes the major objection of the Georgian side.

Then the Georgian and Abkhazian leaders should have a dialogue on division of their powers and establishment of the Abkhazian legal status within Georgia.

The only agreement Russia and Georgia can conclude before the Abkhazian conflict is settled may concern the position of Russian troops in Georgia, said the vice-premier.

Abdulatipov on Georgian Visit

LD1902211493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1334 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Mariya Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Caucasus Ridge is not a barrier to the spreading of inter-ethnic conflicts. Therefore, without stabilizing the situation in Georgia, it would be impossible to guarantee peace on the territory bordering Russia, Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities at the Russian parliament, said at a meeting with journalists today devoted to his trip to Georgia together with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray. Abdulatipov said the top priority task in that region is the inadmissibility of repeating the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and the return of refugees to their residences.

Touching upon the Abkhaz problem, Abdulatipov noted that the latest decisions made by the Russian parliament, which, in his view, provided "initial positions for its fundamental solution," had not been perceived in Georgia and that a specially established control-inspection commission was not working.

At the same time, the chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities announced that during a meeting between the Russian delegation and Eduard Shevardnadze an understanding was reached that the entire Caucasus was subject to a very similar model of conflicts. Therefore unified ways of getting out of a crisis should be elaborated. This is the purpoe of a meeting between the leaderships of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Russia planned for March.

The signing of a communique with the leadership and parliament of Georgia was the result of the Abdulatipov and Shakhray trip.

Abdulatipov on Ethnic Conflicts

MK2002141293 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities, by V. Ignatov and N. Kalashnikova: "We Should Not Act Like Savages, Abdulatipov Says"—place and date not given; first two paragraphs are correspondents' introduction]

[Text] Even in the good old days, the North Caucasus was a headache for the Russian autocrats, and in fact it never surrendered, exploding from time to time with holy wars of national liberation. Now, too, more than a hundred years later, it is still the hottest spot on the map of the Russian Federation.

Why is it that the peoples of the Caucasus have such a strong desire to be separate? We asked Ramazan Abdulatipov to answer this and a number of other questions, not only because he is chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Council of Nationalities and a doctor of philosophy, but also because he recently attended a meeting of Russian and Chechen delegations, and is therefore familiar with the current situation in the Caucasus.

[Abdulatipov] The aggravation of the ethnic issue in North Caucasus, as I personally see it, is rooted in the fact that because of the ill-conceived policies pursued first by the tsarist regime and later by the Soviet "leaders" who succeeded it, the natural course of development of Russia's nations and nationalities was crudely tampered with. National culture was suppressed, and there was a couldn't-care-less attitude to local traditions. Under the Soviet regime, the boundaries of the North Caucasian republics were altered as much as ten times, and no one cared to ask the native peoples what they thought. It is the fruits of this attitude to national and state identity that we are reaping now. This applies to the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and to our fairly acute relations, so to speak, with the Chechen Republic.

[Question] That sort of policy was pursued everywhere. Now, many of the peoples who used to have restricted statehood within the Russian Federation, or else who had none at all, have embarked on the path of sovereignty—Tatarstan, for instance. It is only in the Caucasus, however, that the shooting is going on. Is this because the territory there was carved up in a more heavy-handed way, or is it because the people there are more hot-tempered?

[Abdulatipov] The situation in the Caucasus is aggravated by the fact that a large number of peoples are packed into a small area, and sometimes these peoples differ greatly from one other in their religion, language, and traditions. This leads to competition among them. While the authorities of Tatarstan or the Republic of Sakha, for example, are not getting along too well only with the central, Russian authorities, the national leaders in the North Caucasus are also at odds with one another.

[Question] Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich, are you intentionally making a distinction between "the authorities" or "the leaders" and their peoples?

[Abdulatipov] Yes. Due to circumstances and to the nature of my job, I am fairly familiar with the way the Caucasians feel. I often travel there, and can assure you that none of the mountain peoples there is infected with

the virus of nationalism. It is some of the leaders who are infected with nationalism, and they are simply foisting it on the people, ramming it into their heads. I would say it is taking on the form of mass psychosis. However, the practical reason for stirring up nationalist passions, calling for all kinds of "holy wars," is that the ethnic elites are craving for power that is not limited by Russian laws and, naturally, also for access to valuables.

[Question] Many Russian citizens, including politicians, are currently inclined to think that the Caucasian problem can only be resolved by taking tough action.

[Abdulatipov] That is completely wrong. We must not revert to Stalinist methods of repressing the unruly, even if the Caucasians themselves are demanding tough action. The Ossetians, for example, insist that the Ingushes be resettled from their republic, and the Ingushes are adamant that Prigorodnyy Rayon must be returned to them by whatever means....

In a democracy, the only kind of dictatorship possible is that of the law binding on all. For the moment, however, we have a topsy-turvy way of resolving ethnic conflicts. In a civilized society, it is dialogue that comes first, whereas the first thing we do to solve our problems is to arm ourselves like savages before a fight. Only by dialogue, by carefully and wisely balancing each others' interests, can we achieve peace and prosperity for all peoples.

New Council Chairman Sokolov Interviewed

OW1802140793 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Interview with Veniamin Sergeyevich Sokolov, new chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Supreme Soviet, by Sergey Lomakin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] I am happy to welcome Veniamin Sergeyevich Sokolov, new chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Supreme Soviet, to our studio. Welcome and good morning. I think it is very good that we are introducing a new political figure from the Supreme Soviet and Russia in general to our viewers. First of all I would like to present some biographic details, if you do not mind, Veniamin Sergeyevich. You are 57 years old. You graduated from the Moscow Physicotechnical Institute and are a Doctor of Physicomathematical Sciences and a Professor. Prior to your appointment you were chairman of the Council of the Republic Subcommission for Planning, Budget, Taxes, and Prices, and before being elected as a Russian people's deputy you worked as second secretary of the Krasnoyarsk Kray party committee. Have I made any mistakes?

[Sokolov] No.

[Lomakin] So everything is correct. Now here is my first question: Are you or are you not a convinced communist?

[Sokolov] I am a convinced communist, yes, a convinced one.

[Lomakin] Do you agree exactly with the positions of the RKP [Russian Communist Party] and the CPSU, which have been disbanded and destroyed, or what?

[Sokolov] No, that is a different matter. When I say that I am a convinced communist, I mean that I support their scientific points of view concerning societal problems. Membership in a party is quite a different thing. It is a political organization which, unfortunately, rarely organizes its work in a scientific manner in order to solve societal problems. So here I draw the line between convictions and membership in a political organization.

[Lomakin] Very well. Many newspapers continue their criticism, that the congress of People's Deputies—and the Supreme Soviet as well—is mainly composed of communists, and so it has procommunist sentiments and this gives rise to all kinds of conflicts between the president and the executive branch, which is democratic, and the Supreme Soviet, which is communist. Is this a fact—is this really true? Could it be that this is not so?

[Sokolov] Well, you know that if we interpret the position of the majority of deputies, as it was expressed at the Seventh Congress, as a position in defense of the interests of the majority of the population, then why not present this position as procommunist? After all, an overwhelming majority of the participants in this congress assessed the activities of the previous government and the progress of economic reforms from precisely such positions.

Now nobody said that they were against transforming the economy, that they opposed it. The majority of people who worked [words indistinct] during the so-called period of stagnation understood quite well that the system had reached its limits and that it was essential to transform it. But how to transform it, and for the sake of what aims?

[Lomakin] Are you aware—and I ask you as chairman of the Council of the Republic— of the fact that the population of Russia is generally disappointed in politicians and in the political strength and political potency of leaders today? I see the referendum, which many people are now talking about, simply as a collision to some extent of two leaders and two power groups. And in principle this does not affect the people very much.

[Sokolov] Am I aware of this? Of course I am and I understand perfectly well that to carry out any form of mass nationwide political campaign involving a vote on this or that issue or even an election under current conditions is not very smart, to say the least. I consider that until we achieve a turning point in the country in the course of economic processes, until a noticeable

improvement in the lives of people becomes evident, any political campaign of this sort will be doomed to failure and it will mean even greater calamities for the country and the people.

Now if we talk about why after all the congress adopted a decision on holding this referendum, I think that a kind of insidious attitude to this played a role here. I think the result of voting was actually foisted on the congress. In other words every deputy was in fact accused of being afraid to once again appear before and give an account to the people. Now the deputies who were not afraid voted for the referendum. In fact I think it was a kind of provocation, a moral and psychological provocation with political overtones. Although the majority understood perfectly well that no referendum could be held under these conditions.

[Lomakin] Well let us put the referendum aside for a moment. I would like to ask you: You say that the situation is really difficult, and everybody agrees with this. How long do you think it will be before the situation changes for the better, or becomes at least stable?

[Sokolov] You know this is a very difficult question because I believe that if the policy of the previous government continues in any way—and unfortunately this is so—then we will simply crash.

[Lomakin] Why do you say if? Is the policy being continued?

[Sokolov] To some extent it is. This may be less obvious or evident, but in fact the so-called monetary attitude nevertheless remains the determining factor of the current government's policy. Now this is not only...[changes thought] We can see for ourselves by what is happening in the streets, what the result will be. Specialists from the rest of the world, American and European specialists, have been saying for the past year that with this kind of consistency in implementing reforms there can be no other result.

[Lomakin] Now my last question, Veniamin Sergeyevich. Perhaps it is little unusual or even personal: What was the first thing that you did after you were elected chairman of the Council of the Republic? What decision did you make?

[Sokolov] Only four days have passed, so it is a little early to talk about any decisions, particularly any decisions that could somehow influence the future of the Supreme Soviet. I have not had the opportunity to make any decisions, although I have already had to make some personal decisions.

[Lomakin] Thank you Veniamin Sergeyevich. I hope you will continue to adopt well thought-out decisions. This is the best approach. Our guest was Veniamin Sergeyevich Sokolov, new chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Russian Supreme Soviet, a new political star on the horizon. Thank you.

[Sokolov] Thank you.

Supreme Soviet Passes Laws 19 Feb

On State Border

OW1902144693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Law on the State Border, passed by the Russian Parliament on Friday [19 February], says that Russia shall have its borders defined in international agreements and in the former Soviet Union's legislative acts. This document also says that while establishing or changing its border, Russia shall be guided by the principles of international security, mutually advantageous cooperation with foreign countries, mutual respect for the states' sovereignty and territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders.

According to the law, frontier troops, air-defense units and the navy shall have the right to use weapons in rebuffing armed aggression. Weapons shall not be used against any means of transportation (air, land, sea or river) with civilian passengers aboard, or against women and minors with the exception of cases of armed attacks on their part.

The Russian Parliament also instructed the government to intensify talks with the governments of the former Soviet republics and other states with which Russia has not yet concluded agreements on delimitation and on the demarcation of Russia's state border.

On Protecting State Bodies

OW1902145793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Parliament on Friday [19 February] passed the Law on State Protection for the Highest State Power Bodies in the Russian Federation and Their Officials.

The authors of the draft law took into account the current difficulties in relations between the highest executive and representative power bodies in Russia. Working on the premise that the branches of legislative, executive and judicial power would be divided, the law makers provided for the "independent" functioning of the federal bodies of state protection.

The draft law at its first reading proposed a unified protection service for all state power bodies in Russia. However this idea was amended after the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies.

Any decision to form, reorganize and disband federal state protection bodies which provide protection for the highest bodies of legislative and executive power in Russia and their officials is now made accordingly by parliament and the president.

Next week parliament will discuss the draft law on protection for representative bodies of power, which was passed at its first reading by parliament's Republican Council.

On Refugees

LD1902181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—A law on refugees adopted today by the Russian parliament establishes legal, economic and social guarantees of protection of rights of persons, who are not citizens of the Russian Federation, were forced to leave a country of their permanent residence and arrived or wish to arrive in Russia.

Under the law a person planning to receive the refugee status in the Russian Federation, shall immediately upon one's arrival in the Russian territory personally address with an application a local migration service body, and, if there is no such a body, a corresponding management body in charge of labor and employment issues.

The persons, who received the status, shall observe the Russian constitution, the constitution of a republic within the Russian Federation, where one lives, and other legislative acts, as well as resolutions of local self-government bodies.

The refugee cannot be returned against one's will to the country one had left. State power and management bodies render the refugee assistance in naturalization. A fund of refugee support shall be established under the Russian government. Russian cooperation with other states on the refugee issue shall be based on international treaties and agreements.

Parliament Examines Law on Status of Moscow City

MK1902130693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Andrey Smirnov, Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko, Jr.: "Moscow Switches Over to Commercial Relations With Russia"]

[Excerpts] Moscow will shortly receive a special legal status establishing a new relationship between the state and its capital city. Under the draft law "On the Status of Moscow," which was passed on its first reading in the Supreme Soviet on 18 February, the government will be obligated to compensate for the expenses sustained by the city treasury in administering Moscow's functions as a capital, and the city authorities will be granted the right to lease or transfer ownership of buildings and land to state organizations.

At the 18 February Supreme Soviet session, deputies had two draft versions to examine: one drawn up in parliament and the other by a commission chaired by Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko. Observers note that the two versions do not fundamentally differ from each other, and the debates could only have been a reflection of the authors' ambitions. Nonetheless, Boris Yeltsin again showed his readiness to compromise with parliament. He requested the Supreme Soviet not to consider the document drawn up by the commission, but to enact the law after the simultaneous reelection of the Moscow City Council and the mayor—and not only the head of the executive branch, as the city councillors are demanding. Incidentally, Yuriy Luzhkov also favors a parallel reelection.

Deputy Speaker Nikolay Ryabov, however, who sat in for Ruslan Khasbulatov during his trip to Novosibirsk, said that the Supreme Soviet would decide for itself when to enact this and other laws. In a resolution summing up the results of the debate, the deputies refused to consider Shumeyko's draft, also voting to include the stock phrase about the law coming into effect upon its publication. [passage omitted]

Under the Supreme Soviet decree, Moscow City Council and Moscow City Hall are, before 3 March, to submit amendments to the bill that was approved on 18 February. The parliamentary committee on self-government is to examine the amendments before 15 March, whereupon the document should immediately have a second reading. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report on the results of that discussion on 16 March.

Observers point out that by appealing to parliament, Boris Yeltsin not only demonstrated his commitment to reach compromise, but also sought to support Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov—his tried and tested ally—in his conflict with the Moscow City Council. Luzhkov himself does not object to the bill, which, in his opinion, provides a foundation for regulating relations in the upper echelons of the city administration. [passage omitted]

Proceedings of 11 Feb Supreme Soviet Session

PM1702173593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary Observer Aleksandr Linkov report: "Sixth Session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: Special Approach Toward Finances"]

[Text] Last week, the Supreme Soviet adopted:

—Decrees "On Financing the Fuel and Energy Complex," "On Issuing Pensions Set Up Under the Norms of Previously Existing Legislation to Citizens Who Have Moved to Permanent Places of Residence Abroad";

—A Law "On Military Duty and Military Service";

—The Bases of Legislation on the Body of Notaries;

—A Law "On Pension Provision for Servicemen, Persons From the Command and Regular Personnel of Internal Affairs Organs, and Their Families";

—A Law "On the Export and Import of Cultural Items"

Parliamentarians examined a draft law on military service obligation and military service the day before yesterday. This document had a rough passage in parliament. Even in the first stage of the discussion, the draft document instantly prompted many debates and remarks. Then the Russian president voted it down, introducing his own additions. So for the umpteenth time, the draft law was submitted to the judgment of Supreme Soviet members. Yesterday the discussion procedure passed off calmly, and in a business-like manner. After examining the package of amendments, the parliamentarians finally adopted the law.

What are its distinctive features? Above all, it enshrines all the concepts of military service and its duration, the text of the oath is cited, and it states who can expect to have their draft deferred. For the first time, for instance, contract-based military service is mentioned, which was not practised previously in the Army. Incidentally, a contract can be concluded by citizens aged between 18 and 40. Contract lengths are either three, five, or 10 years, depending upon the proposed post.

For those serving under conscript, the following service durations have been established—18 months and 24 months. The latter is in respect of the Navy, but a boy with higher education only has to apply himself to the science of the Army for one year in all.

Much time was devoted at the daytime session to the problems of the Pension Fund. A draft law on the budget for the Pension Fund for the first quarter of 1993 and two Supreme Soviet decrees "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Procedure for the Payment of Insurance Contributions by Employers and Citizens into the Russian Federation Pension Fund," and "On the Issue of Pensions Set Up Under the Norms of Previously Existing Legislation to Citizens Who Have Moved to Permanent Places of Residence Abroad" were examined.

A total of five questions were included on the agenda. Among them, parliamentarians will have to examine draft laws on state protection for Russian Federation supreme organs of state power and their official personnel, as well as a draft of the bases of legislation on physical culture and sport.

During the 11 February evening session, following a brief discussion, the deputies decided to carry over two legal acts—the draft law on state protection for the supreme organs of state power and their official personnel, and the draft of the bases of legislation on physical culture and sport—for a third reading. It seems that there are a number of significant corrections to the first of these, and it is desirable to discuss the second document in the presence of a representative of the president, as amendments had been introduced by him. The parliamentarians will probably return to them next week.

Financial questions always attract heightened attention. And when talk turned yesterday to setting up a state extrabudgetary fund to reproduce the mineral raw materials base, a fairly keen discussion arose straight away.

However, a number of deputies cast doubt over the organization of such a fund insofar as they have begun to sprout like mushrooms after rain, they are virtually uncontrolled, and their assets go rather to maintain bureaucrats. For instance, Deputy G. Sayenko made mention of one check-up in the course of which it emerged that the right to trade in oil is now enjoyed in our country by militia organs, cultural organs, and other organizations. Such license has led to a situation where raw materials are being taken abroad unhindered.

Despite a passionate speech by Yu. Sergeyev, who presented the draft statute on the extrabudgetary fund and who is chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Questions of Ecology and the Rational Use of Natural Resources, the Supreme Soviet's decree was not adopted. The parliamentarians decided to send the document back for additional work.

And at the end of the working day, the Supreme Soviet examined in their third reading and adopted in their entirety the bases of legislation on the body of notaries.

The deputies were informed that their activities will soon be more widely reflected on television and radio. The RTV-Parliament Channel is being set up.

International Affairs

Officer Comments on Gas Dispute With Russia

OW2202164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An officer from the Ukrainian concern Ukrgazprom, Valentin Kolomeyev, told Interfax on Monday [22 February] that a Ukrainian delegation is currently negotiating in Moscow terms for supplies of Russian natural gas to the republic.

Kolomeyev said that, within the next few days, Ukraine will make no official response to the Saturday statement of the president of the Russian concern Gazprom, Rem Vyakhirev. [sentence as received] He expressed the hope that the problem will be solved within the next few days.

Vyakhirev said on Saturday at a press conference that Russia might stop providing Ukraine with gas as of February 25 since Ukraine had not paid the 165 billion rubles it owed Russia for the gas received in January.

Around mid-February, Russia notified the Ukrainian cabinet that it was raising the price for its gas to $85 per 1000 cubic meters. An official from Ukraine's Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, Mikhail Shatkovskiy, said Kiev might charge Russia world prices for the transit of its gas to Europe. In that case, Ukraine would have to pay between $43 and $45 for every 1000 cubic meters of Russian gas, he said.

Russia Assures European Supplies

LD2202190393 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 1745 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] According to all the signs, Ukraine is concentrating all its efforts on finding new gas and oil resources, since at the weekend Russia threatened the Kiev government with turning off the gas tap on Thursday [25 February] and only selling oil to its southern neighbor at the world market price. The spokesman's office of the Ukrainian government told an MTI correspondent that the Russian announcement does not equivocate in stating that the 13 European countries concerned with oil and gas export will receive the contracted amount from Russia even if Ukraine does not get a drop. The pipeline, as a matter of fact, runs precisely through Ukraine.

Pynzenyk Comments

AU2302083493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Express Information": "Gas—at World Prices"]

[Text] Yesterday, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers received a telegram from the Russian Government according to which our state is asked to pay $85 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas. It was with this news that Viktor Pynzenyk, vice prime minister and minister of the economy, began his news conference dealing with the most important events. He pointed out that Ukraine will also be compelled to introduce world prices for transporting gas, oil, and various types of cargo by air and railroads.

Answering the journalists' questions, the vice prime minister expressed his attitude toward the transport workers on strike in Kiev. He stated that the government will not agree to any of their conditions for raising wages because it would be unfair to the rest of the population.

Kravchuk, German Minister Discuss Nuclear Cooperation

LD2202215493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2031 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 22 TASS—Ukraine is interested in cooperation with Germany in such an important area as the safe operation of nuclear power stations, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said today. He received German Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Reactor Safety Klaus Toepler who arrived in the Ukrainian capital at the head of his country's wide-ranging delegation.

During the talk that passed in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual trust, Kravchuk told Toepler about problems faced by his country in operating nuclear power stations which play an important role in the supply of Ukraine with energy. "We know that Germany together with France have rich experience in the operation of such stations and we will be grateful if this experience is used also in our conditions," Kravchuk said.

On the same day, a lively dialogue between the two countries' delegations took place in the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. It also involved a delegation from the French Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade led by General Director for Energy and Raw Material Issues Claude Mandil.

At the guests' request, Ukrainain Deputy Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe informed them about the present state of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and its fate in the immediate future and the moratorium on building new nuclear power stations adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The sides also addressed many concrete issues concerning the quest for new forms of cooperation between the three countries.

"We know the dire straits Ukraine is in now. We understand that it will not solve many of the problems, including those related to nuclear power stations on its own. Therefore, we are prepared to extend the broadest possible assistance to your state both in material terms

and with specialists, in the form of consultations. We arrived here exactly in order to determine by joint efforts the forms of such contacts."

"Ukraine is open for cooperation both with Germany and France," Ioffe stated. "We are ready to receive their specialists in our country, constantly exchange the latest information, jointly develop solutions related to the Chernobyl problem, the building of a new sarcophagus and enhancing of the safety of the existing nuclear plants' operation."

Today, German and French specialists toured the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident.

Aid Linked to START I Ratification

LD2302091193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] German Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer has said that Ukraine must ratify the START I Treaty and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty before it is granted German economic aid. The minister spoke at a meeting in Kiev with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Toepfer is in Ukraine to discuss problems concerning the safety of nuclear power stations. Kravchuk informed the German minister that the Chernobyl station would be closed by the end of the year.

Foreign Ministry Issues Note on USSR Property

LD2302130893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] We have already reported that the president of the Russian Federation has issued a decree on the state property of the former USSR abroad, according to which Russia unilaterally lays claim to assuming all rights related to this real estate and movable property. In connection with this, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to all states holding property of the former USSR with a request to assist in preserving it and not to permit any attempts by Russia to change the status of this property or violate its integrity.

Such a status quo of ownership should be preserved until the final settlement of the question between Ukraine and Russia on the division of the property and the assumption of ownership by Ukraine as one of the successor states to the former USSR.

The note stresses that in accordance with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, every one of the independent states which has been created on the territory of the former USSR is its legal successor in terms of agreements on this property, state debts, and archives. The note states that Ukraine does not recognize Russian claims to the right of individual ownership of foreign assets nor its efforts to be considered the single successor state to the former USSR.

National Affairs

Anti-Communist Front Demands Dissolution of Parliament

OW2302121793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The All-Ukrainian "Anti-Communist, Anti-Imperialist Front" has announced plans to dissolve the Parliament and all other bodies of powers and convene a constituent assembly to adopt a new constitution and a new election law for Ukraine. A declaration adopted at the end of a forum in Kiev on Sunday [21 February] says the front will resist efforts to revise the Parliament's decision, banning the Ukrainian communist party's activity. The document proclaims the front's determination to assist economic reforms and fight against corruption, crime, and embezzlement of state property.

Sevastopol Group Urges Move To Join Russia

OW2202164093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A bloc of patriotic forces in Sevastopol have demanded that the city council convene in the near future and consider resolutions from recent mass meetings calling for the city to join the Russian Federation. In an address to the leadership of the Sevastopol city council, representatives of the National Salvation Front, the All-Crimea Voters' Movement, the Republican Movement of the Crimea, the Russian People's Assembly, and other organizations warned that if their demands are not met, they "will, expressing the will of the people of the city, be forced to take measures appropriate and adequate to (the authorities') indecision."

Last Sunday [14 February], participants in a regular meeting in Sevastopol called on the Crimean Supreme Council to organize a referendum by 1 May which would clarify the population's views on the return of the Crimea to Russian jurisdiction.

New Measures To Stabilize National Currency

OW2102204793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government has taken a new measure at the weekend which provides for mandatory sales of part of foreign earnings as a way of supporting and stabilizing the country's interim currency unit, karbovanets, which marked an all time low of 1315 karbovanets per dollar at the latest sale in Kiev (one rouble fetches 1.73 karbovanets). Deputy Economics Minister

Sergey Terekhin said that a 50% mandatory sale was to be carried out by foreign exchanges at market value.

Terekhin said the sales were expected to increase currency supply to cut barter operations used by export producers as a way of evading tax on foreign earnings. As the karbovanets shows signs of settling, he said, a 100% sale can be introduced at the next stage. Terekhin says that less than a 60% annual rate of inflation will indicate that the local currency unit has settled.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma speaking at the end of last month said the government was planning to curb inflation by 5-6% a month later this year.

Kravchuk Issues Law Amending Law on Citizenship

AU2102191493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Feb 93 p 9

["Ukraine's Law on Altering and Supplementing Ukraine's Law 'On Citizenship'" issued in Kiev on 28 January]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council decrees as follows:

1. To introduce changes and additions into Ukraine's law "On Citizenship" (Proceedings of Ukraine's Supreme Council, 1991, No. 50, Article 701) and formulate item 2 of Article 2 of Ukraine's Law in the following way: "Persons who work on state assignments, serve in the Army, or study outside of Ukraine, provided that they were born in Ukraine or proved that they have been permanently residing on its territory, are not citizens of other states and expressed their desire to become Ukraine's citizens not later than two years following the adoption of this law."

2. Part 2 of Item 2 in Article 17 must be formulated in the following way: "This rule does not apply to those persons who arrived in Ukraine for permanent residence and expressed a desire to become Ukrainian citizens provided that they were born or proved that at least one of their parents, grandfather, or grandmother was born on its territory and are not citizens of other states."

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine
[Dated] Kiev, 28 January 1993

Supreme Council Decree on Implementing Citizenship Law

AU2202104293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Feb 93 p 2

["Ukraine's Supreme Council Decree on Implementing Ukraine's Law 'On Altering and Supplementing Ukraine's Law On Citizenship'" issued in Kiev on 28 January]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council decrees as follows:

1. To implement Ukraine's Law "On Altering and Supplementing Ukraine's Law 'On Citizenship'" from the day of its publication.

2. To recommend that Ukraine's president create Ukraine's State Committee for Questions of Migration.

3. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, in its draft state budget for 1993, must provide for financing re-emigration processes.

4. Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in accordance with Ukraine's Supreme Council Decree No. 2145-XP "On Founding Ukraine's Diplomatic and Consular Missions" of 21 February 1992) must establish, by agreement with the organs of the executive power of the states that are former USSR republics, Ukrainian diplomatic and consular missions in those regions of the aforementioned states that are densely populated by emigrants from Ukraine, in particular, for organizing work to implement Ukraine's law "On Citizenship."

[Signed] I. Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council
[Dated] Kiev, 28 January 1993

Law Gives Citizens More Freedom To Act Against Criminals

AU2202105493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Feb 93 p 2

["Ukraine's Law on Altering Article 15 of Ukraine's Criminal Code" issued in Kiev on 26 January]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council decrees as follows:

1. Article 15 of Ukraine's Criminal Code must be formulated in the following way:

"Article 15. Necessary defense

"Every person has the right to resort to necessary defense, regardless of whether it was possible to avoid the violation or to turn to other persons or organs of power for assistance.

"Necessary defense involves actions undertaken for the purpose of protecting the interests or rights of a person who is defending himself or the interests of society or state from a socially dangerous violation by causing damage to the perpetrator, provided that such actions were justified by the need urgently to avert or stop the violation.

"It is not a crime to use weapons or any other methods or objects, regardless of the consequences, provided that this is done in order to defend oneself from an attack by an armed person or from an attack by a group of persons, or in order to neutralize an illegal and violent break-in into a home or other premises. Nor is it a crime if a person, while defending himself, could not, as a result of

the fear or strong excitement generated by socially dangerous actions, assess the appropriateness of his defensive action to the nature of the violation.

"Exceeding the limits of necessary defense, that is to say, causing the perpetrator damage that is clearly in excess of the seriousness of the violation or circumstances of the defense is answerable before the law only in those cases that are specially provided for by the criminal law.

"Actions undertaken by a victim or other persons immediately after a violation in order to detain the attacker and hand him over to the appropriate organs of power, in conformity with the law, are equated to necessary defense, provided that they were necessary for his detention and were appropriate to the danger involved in the violation and to the situation in which the criminal was detained."

2. This law becomes effective on the day of its publication.

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine
[Dated] Kiev, 26 January 1993

Belarus

Shushkevich 'Refuted' Nuclear Arms Proposals

OW2302135793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Slemnev, the chairman of the national policy and CIS issues commission of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, declared that the republic's leadership repeatedly received proposals to sell nuclear and conventional arms through mediator countries. However, Stanislav Shushkevich (head of parliament—INTERFAX) categorically refuted even "the most tempting" proposals, Slemnev pointed out in his exclusive interview with INTERFAX.

Slemnev reported that "several influential deputies and groups of parliamentarians repeatedly voiced proposals to announce that weapons stationed on Belarusian territory were the republic's property and to force the world community to acknowledge Belarus as a mighty nuclear power." According to Slemnev, "Shushkevich occupied and occupies a tough position: no games with nuclear weapons."

Decision Bans Weapons, Harmful Substances Traffic

LD2202232593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1644 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich]

[Text] Minsk, 22 February (TASS)—The Belarus Council of Ministers, which is concerned at the increasing instances of illegal traffic across its border of weapons, explosives, narcotic, and psychotropic substances and items which endanger the life and health of citizens, issued a decision today on measures to restrict their movement across the republican border.

A ban has been placed on the transit traffic of military weapons of any kind and the ammunition for them, hunting and sports weapons, and implements, special devices, or their attachments that are intended to cause bodily harm or paralysis. The ban extends to the passage of aerosols containing irritant or poisonous gases or nerve gas, sources of radioactive radiation, nuclear materials, including waste, toxic or poisonous substances, narcotics, and psychotropic substances.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the State Waste Inspection of the republic have been instructed to work out and endorse a procedure for granting permission for the passage of the said items and substances across the Belarusian border.

Military Official Interviewed on 'Special Purpose Units'

WS1902142193 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Colonel Sergey Alexandrovich Anoshin, chief of Service Department at the Chief Headquarters of the Belarusian Armed Forces, by newspaper correspondent Major G. Solonets: "On Commandant Service, 'Special Purpose Subunits', and Other Things"; place and date not given—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In late 1992, the Belarusian minister of defense issued Order No. 225 "On Introduction of Commandant Service in the Belarusian Armed Forces." Colonel Sergey Alexandrovich Anoshin, chief of the Service Department at the Chief Headquarters of the Belarusian Armed Forces, supervises the implementation of this order. Our correspondent met with him.

[Solonets] Sergey Alexandrovich, what is the purpose of introducing a commandant service in the Belarusian Army?

[Anoshin] The aim is to ensure military discipline in garrisons and to create conditions necessary for everyday Army life. This is done within the framework of strengthening the battle against law violations existing in the Army.

[Solonets] What does the order demand?

[Anoshin] It authorizes the establishment of permanent military commandant's offices in Grodno, Borisov, Polotsk, Bobruysk, Vitebsk, Pukhovichi, and Baranovichi Garrisons. Positions of permanent assistants of military commandants have been introduced. In addition, special purpose subunits are being formed at every commandant's office and they will closely cooperate with the Internal Ministry units. I think you know already that such a special purpose subunit is already performing its duty at the Minsk Garrison.

[Solonets] What are the duties of the special purpose subunits?

[Anoshin] They follow the military police model in foreign countries. They are guarding important objects, patrolling the streets together with the militia units, looking for soldiers who have left their units without permission. These days, we have about 150 such soldiers.

[Solonets] You were speaking about the joint patrolling which was first introduced by the notorious Yazov and Pugo.... Then, its establishment received a dubious reaction from the public.

[Anoshin] I experienced this reaction on myself: your colleagues organized a number of press conferences with me. With regards to this issue, we are not pleased at the idea of joint patrolling. Especially, as the statute of the servicemen does not foresee these functions for us. But

we understand that due to changes in our society, the Army is now responsible for protecting the peace. I can tell you the figures: each day, in Belarus, about 220 specially trained servicemen perform joint patrolling of the streets. Their number is doubled on Sundays and holidays.

[Solonets] The last question. Those special purpose subunits should receive special combat training, should not they?

[Anoshin] Of course, they should. Their service is specific. First, the main attention is paid to their physical combatant service. Second, we train soldiers to handle small arms with skill.

Destruction of Tanks at Borisov Plant Detailed

LD2202235393 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1900 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] As we have reported, destruction of military machines, in particular tanks, has started at the Borisov plant for repairs of military machinery, in line with international agreement. They are closely lined on the parade ground awaiting their turn to be dismantled. In a special shop, they are skillfully undressed, the turret and the gun are dismantled, and the body is broken up. After foreign specialists from the United States, Germany, Italy and other western countries are convinced that everything has been done properly, the remains of the tank can be sent for smelting. In a month it is planned to turn 24 machines into metal. In three years, 1,657 tanks and 1,087 armoured vehicles will end their life.

Permission has been given to re-equip part of what is intended for destruction for the needs of the national economy. This is how Alesya has come to life—the machine which runs fast, swims and does not sink in marshes, is equipped with electric and gas welding and a jib crane and can lift half a tonne.

Fall Draft Calls-Up 19,000; 1,500 Fail To Show

WS2302153693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1446 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] As the Defense Ministry press center has informed BELINFORM, the recent call-up managed to fully reinforce the National Army. More than 19,000 young men have been drafted, several thousand have been found inelligible due to poor health, while almost 1,500 have failed to turn up at recruiting offices. The press center sees the reason for refusing Army service in the falling standard of the military and patriotic education which no one has recently had time for in Belarus.

Shushkevich Appoints New Construction Committee Chairman

WS1902153693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1236 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, head of the Belarusian legislature, has signed a Supreme Council resolution appointing Grigoriy Tishkevich chairman of the State Committee for Architecture and Construction. A BELINFORM correspondent has asked Grigoriy Vasilyevich how the new chairman is going to deal with his complicated legacy.

"The legacy is really complicated. It is impossible to take any measures without a definite program. It will take more than a month to put this industry in order. To ensure its normal functioning, it is necessary to create equal conditions both for the existing state structures and the new small building enterprises and cooperatives. The existence of different property forms will help to eliminate one of the key problems—the monopoly of state structures. Building organizations will have equal conditions for competition. The latter will ensure better prospects for those who build faster, cheaper, and with greater quality.

"The government initiative on the creative freedom of design offices has already born the first fruit. The old regulations on the coordination of building constructions with contractors have been repealed. The norms and standards of the USSR State Construction Committee were the same both for Brest and Vladivostok. They did not take into account geographical peculiarities and ethnic traditions. We must now build our own normative construction basis. Such a basis should pay due attention to everything so that our descendants do not have to launch a periodical perestroyka.

"The key task of our committee is to create conditions and possibilities for every Belarusian citizen to build a house according to his taste. The construction of state housing will be orientated toward needy citizens and people who enjoy privileges."

Memorandum Signed With EBRD on Mutual Understanding

LD1902201193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 19 TASS—The government of the Belarusian Republic and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] have signed a memorandum on mutual understanding here today. According to Jacques Attali, president of the bank, the document will promote the progress of democratic reforms in the republic, facilitate its transition to a market-oriented economy, improve tax structures, speed up the process of privatization and the development of private business.

The European Bank will help the Belarusian government carry out privatization and structural changes and render technical assistance in converting defense-related enterprises to the civil production. The memorandum envisages giving Belarus support in the development of agriculture, telecommunications, transport and power engineering. It is also planned to train personnel and assist in the organisational build-up of the financial and banking sector of the Belarusian economy.

As a member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Belarus enjoys full rights to take an equal part in making decisions on the European arena. "The European Bank is interested in integrating Belarus into the European Community so that Minsk could become to a greater extent the cross-roads between the two continents," Jacques Attali said.

Minsk, Bashkirs Sign Economic Cooperation Protocol

WS2302154593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1446 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Today, a government delegation from Bashkortostan headed by Prime Minister Anatoliy Kopsov ended its visit in Belarus. It was another step toward resolving numerous problems on a mutually beneficial basis. The two sovereign states signed a negotiatory protocol on the measures for implementing the agreement on trade and economic cooperation for the current year. This vitally important document opens good prospects for both sides. The newly formed working groups will promptly resolve all issues concerning the conclusion of contracts, economic agreements, and control over the delivery of raw materials and goods.

Belarus will get more oil, natural gas, coal, rolled ferrous metals, and other goods with Bashkir trademarks. At the same time, our country will export cars, tractors, agricultural technology, metal-cutting machine tools, and a large selection of light industry goods.

The possibility of additional deliveries of raw materials and goods was also discussed during the visit.

"Good possibilities are inherent in our relations," noted Nikolay Kostikov, Belarusian deputy chairman of the Ministers' Council, after the signing of the protocol. "They are acceptable for both sides. We are confident that the current visit will strengthen the economic relations between the two republics even more."

Anatoliy Kopsov was also satisfied with the visit. He noted that the measures would help them get rid of many problems in stabilizing the national economy. "We have been sliding down too long during the past years. Presently we have a possibility to take some progressive steps forward. We had no disagreements during the talks, and difficulties can always be overcome."

International Organizations Discuss Technological Aid

WS1902152993 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1308 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The UNDP [United Nations Development Program] has assigned $1.3 million to implement a technological aid program in Belarus. The United States has worked out a number of individual technological aid programs for the transitional period in Belarus to promote its integration into the world economy and assist it in overcoming the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. According to one of them—"Energy Efficiency and Market Economy"—the United States is going to donate energy saving facilities estimated at about $120,000.

A coordinating meeting of the Belarusian Government and the representatives of international organizations from donor countries has discussed the issue of cooperation. The meeting was held at the initiative of the UNDP Minsk office which opened last September. It was attended by the representatives of the IMF, the EC, the World Bank, the UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development], U.S. Ambassador David Swartz, his Italian counterpart Gianluigi Bertinetto, and diplomats from the Japanese and French Embassies.

The participants all agreed that it would be useful to hold similar meetings at the initiative of the UNDP Minsk office.

Government Adopts Measures To Improve Agriculture

WS2302153793 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1236 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Many Belarusian scientists and specialists see the situation in agriculture as critical. In order to mitigate it, the government has adopted a resolution which provides for a number of economic measures that have never been taken before. The resolution notes in particular that all rural difficulties result from the price rise and the lengthy production cycle. That is why the determination of free purchase prices for agricultural produce will become the main source of covering the costs. The state will stop financing the processors by 1 July and it will allocate 167 billion rubles in subsidies for agricultural production. From now on, accounts with suppliers will be settled within five days. This will protect the countryside from inflation. The state also allocates 196 billion rubles for the development of new measures. Farmers will get 3 billion from this sum. The resolution plans to gradually transfer all rural social and cultural issues to the budgets of local councils. The document also provides for a number of other measures.

Moldova

Snegur Accuses Ministries of Lack of Initiative

OW2202172793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur considers conservatism and lack of initiative on the part of the country's ministries and departments as among the main obstacles to economic reform in Moldova. The head of state's opinion was conveyed by his advisor, Ceslav Cobanu, in an exclusive interview with an Interfax correspondent. It is precisely their activities, complained Snegur, in which the sluggish thinking and lack of initiative manifest themselves. The majority of documents they compile are on old plans, and their recommended measures do not answer to the needs of hastening reform.

Snegur, said the advisor, had serious grievances regarding the republic's foreign economic activities. The president believes that Moldova has still not been able to find effective methods of working with its western partners. The production of goods and services by the 172 joint ventures existing in the republic had still not begun significantly to affect the Moldovan economy.

In addition, noted Cobanu, although the situation in the Moldovan economy remains difficult, certain stabilizing tendencies have been noted in industrial production. In the last two months, for instance, the slump in industrial production has stopped, and there has even been some sign of recovery. Thanks to this, there have been some deductions in the state budget. The split between price growth and income has narrowed slightly, and government advisors have shown some optimism with respect to the republic's agro-industrial complex. He considers it imperative that the positive economic tendencies noted be reinforced. This would allow for the possibility of stopping the fall of national income, which, said Cobanu, was 21% lower in 1992 than in the previous year.

Dniester Republic Sets Up Customs Service

LD2202150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By MOLDOVAPRES-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau February 22 TASS—The latest decree issued by the president of the Dniester Moldovan republic Igor Smirnov envisages the establishment of a checkpoint and customs office at Tiraspol Airport. In keeping with this document, freight shall henceforth be checked there by officials of the Dniester Customs Department and the Dniester Ministry of Security. These bodies shall also decide what military cargoes may be taken out of the republic by air. Any decisions on such matters shall be agreed with the Defence Ministry of the Dniester Moldovan republic.

Parliament Tries To Identify 'Dictatorship' Document Author

OW1902193693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament has set up a special commission to identify the authors of the draft law "on individual aspects of a special juridical regime pending the adoption of the constitution." This document was published by opposition newspapers a few days ago and is qualified by the opponents of the current regime as an attempt to establish a dictatorship. It urges to dissolve the parliament, set up interim government bodies pending the adoption of a new constitution, give the president extraordinary powers and put a ban on meetings, marches and street demonstrations.

The parliamentary faction of the Christian Democratic Popular Front, which opposes the government, believes that this document was drafted by pro-communist hardliners, led by the parliament's vice-chairman Victor Puscasu.

Puscasu denied involvement in drafting the document and said that it might have been written in Bucharest to discredit opponents of unification with Romania.

New Constitution To Be Submitted for Discussion, Referendum

PM1902123593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Draft of New Constitution Submitted for Referendum"]

[Text] Chisinau—The disputes over the nationwide referendum, which had for virtually one-and-a-half months paralyzed the Moldovan parliament's lawmaking work, have ended in a decree which was a revelation to the majority of the republic: There will be a referendum, but on a different question.

"Parliament believes that the existence and normal functioning of a state is impossible without the adoption of a constitution," the document adopted by the deputies notes. Parliament will start discussing the draft of the constitution 2 March, after which the draft will be submitted for nationwide discussion. Parliament will also declare the date of the nationwide referendum to which the constitution as a whole is being submitted.

The main aim which the president of Moldova laid down in the idea of the referendum was, as we know, confirmation of the republic's status as an independent sovereign state. This would put an end to the disputes which the president believes are tearing Moldova apart, about

possibly uniting with Romania. The submission of the constitution to a nationwide referendum does not eliminate this aspect, since once of its basic articles confirms Moldova's present status. But the version which the parliament chose may put an end to the rumblings in society. Particularly since deputies are proposing to conclude work on the documents determining the status of the Left Bank areas and the Gagauz region before the referendum is held.

German Officers Inspect Troops According to Vienna Treaty

AU2302082793 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 18 Feb 93 p 8

[Unattributed article: "Bundeswehr Officers in Moldova]

[Text] A German military expert group headed by Colonel Jurgen von Block-Schleiser began its activity in Moldova by inspecting the 2d Motorized Infantry Brigade bearing the name of Stefan cel Mare, BASA PRESS reports, quoting a communique of the press bureau of Moldova's Defense Ministry. The Bundeswehr officers are currently visiting Chisinau to survey the Moldovan military on the basis of "confidence enhancing measures" stipulated by the Vienna treaty. The German experts have expressed their satisfaction with the results of their visit.

Parliamentary Chief Visits Romania En Route to Turkey

LD2302110093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest February 23 TASS—Moldovan Parliament Chief Petru Lucinschi arrived in the Romanian capital on Tuesday [23 February] for an unofficial visit. He made a brief stopover here on his way to Istanbul where he is to attend a meeting of representatives of countries interested in the development of economic cooperation among countries of the Black Sea area.

Lucinschi, whose election to the post of the Moldovan parliament speaker gave rise to mixed reactions in the Romanian press and among local political circles, is to meet with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and presidents of the parliamentary chambers, Oliviu Gherman and Adrian Nastase.

State Adviser Discusses Privatization, Tax Reform

OW1902184893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1707 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "It isn't enough just to proclaim the republic's independence and sovereignty: they should be secured economically," says the Moldovan president's state adviser, Ceslav Cobanu.

In an interview with an Interfax corespondent, Ceslav Cobanu summarized the priorities of the republic's economic policy, as outlined by President Mircea Snegur.

In his words, one of the republic's principal objectives concerns encouraging the state privatization program. In his opinion, this program can only be fulfilled provided the republic's parliament functions more actively and the republic relinquishes its dogmatic attitude toward private property.

Cobanu said the republic's other priority will be to step up reform of the tax system. We are not interested merely in replenishing the republic's budget, he said, but we want to create adequate conditions for the development of micro- and medium business. The state adviser observed that the republic's state sector would still be dominant in most branches of the economy in the near future.

The state secretary attaches great importance to the conversion of enterprises in the former military industrial complex, noting that it provides favorable opportunities for attracting foreign capital. "President Snegur's recent meetings with heads of the former Soviet republics and Western partners look optimistic," he said, recalling the Moldovan president's intention to set up several free export zones in the republic, Chisinau being considered as one of them.

Cobanu designated as the republic's next priority the efficient use of the republic's agro-industrial potential, saying it can provide the utmost conditions for improving the Moldovan public's well-being.

In the words of Cobanu, President Snegur is now concerned with the improvement of the republic's credit and bank system. "We are hopeful that the inception of the CIS bank will boost the efficiency of this branch in the republic," Cobanu said.

Moldova also needs a realistic and well-balanced social protection program, Cobanu emphasized. Stability in society will not be achieved without correlating the rates of wages, pensions, stipends, and other benefits against conformable indexes of the market basket.

We still have great work to accomplish in order to bring all of these priorities to life, the state adviser to the Moldovan president said.

The government of the republic, he said, is now aware of these priorities. Cobanu praised the Moldovan parliament for adopting several vitally important economic laws in the last few days when it was in session.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Receives Ukrainian Prime Minister

LD2202164793 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] A Ukrainian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma is in Alma-Ata. The delegation, which is visiting the republics of the Central Asian region, was received today by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. There was an exchange of opinions on a whole range of issues concerning bilateral cooperation. Kazakhstan and Ukraine need to set up a modern treaty basis which would regulate all aspects of bilateral cooperation, Nazarbayev stressed. Our republic is interested in Ukraine taking part in developing new deposits of natural resources, building oil refining installations and joint enterprises for processing agricultural raw material, and supplying agricultural and mining equipment to Kazakhstan. The president singled out light industry, machine-building, and the mastering of space as priority areas for cooperation.

For his part the head of the Ukrainian delegation noted that his government approves of Kazakhstan's integration policy which is aimed at establishing economic ties between CIS countries. Ukraine is ready to supply consumer goods and equipment and at the same time to purchase hard varieties of wheat.

The Ukrainian side greeted with approval the wishes expressed by Nazarbayev for the deepening of cultural contacts between our peoples and holding joint festivals and meetings between literary and arts figures and making friendly relations more dynamic.

On the same day there were talks between government delegations from Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Sergey Tereshchenko and Leonid Kuchma, the delegation heads, signed several bilateral documents on the results of the talks in the House of Friendship.

Agreement Signed on Oil Exploitation

LD2202183893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By correspondent Dukesh Baymbetov from Alma-Ata, including recorded remarks by Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A Ukrainian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Kuchma is touring Alma-Ata.

[Baymbetov] The Ukrainian Government delegation was received this morning by Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko. Then President Nursultan Nazarbayev joined the meeting. The main aim of the meeting is to restore disrupted economic ties between the two republics and to step up the processes of integration. They discussed mutual supplies, transportation, the postal service, and Ukrainian participation in prospecting Kazakhstan's oil and gas complex in 1993-2005.

[Kuchma] Ukraine is naturally interested in what is taking place here, since you know Ukraine's position with regard to fuel. Russia is cutting down its output. This means we have to look for new sources somewhere else. Kazakhstan has such sources, which will last and last, as they say. As for Ukraine, it is providing the equipment.

[Baymbetov] All the more so that 1,500 boreholes in Kazakhstan are currently idle due to the absence of equipment. Therefore, agreements have been signed on the joint exploitation of oil in Kazakhstan, on supplies of fuel to Ukraine, and other documents.

Nazarbayev, Kuchma Discuss Ties

LD2202183393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Lunev for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 22 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma today stressed that solid economic and cultural contacts always existed between the two countries and their peoples and time has come to restore the mutually beneficial ties disrupted in the wake of the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

Leonid Kuchma is now leading a Ukrainian government delegation on a tour of Central Asian republics.

Kazakhstan and Ukraine have both expressed themselves ready to form a new basis for cooperation. According to President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan is interested in having Ukraine take part in tapping its natural resources, building oil refineries and joint enterprises to process farm produce and agricultural; raw materials. Ukraine can also supply agricultural and mining machinery and equipment to Kazakhstan. The light industry, machine-building and space research were also named by the president among priority lines of cooperation.

The Ukrainian prime minister praised Kazakhstan's integration policy aimed at restoring economic links among Commonwealth member-countries. Ukraine is prepared to supply consumer goods and equipment in exchange for durum wheat.

It was noted that the trade and economic agreement, which is now being prepared for signing between the two countries, will aim to avoid double taxation, protect investments and remove transport and customs barriers between the two countries. Both sides spoke in favour of most favoured treatment in trading.

Also on Monday, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan said that there exist all necessary conditions for resuming mutual supplies between enterprises

and ministries. The two countries decided to set up a governmental commission to supervise the fulfillment of the agreements reached.

As a result of talks, the two sides signed intergovernmental agreements on principles of cooperation in the oil-and-gas industries, non-trade settlements and relations in the field of transport. The two sides signed a treaty of cooperation in the field of postal money transfers, agreements between their finance and communications ministries and customs services.

The Ukrainian delegation will leave Alma-Ata on Tuesday morning.

Nazarbayev Reiterates Call For Oil Independence

OW2202173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev thinks that entrepreneurs in his country can be as good at exploring and operating oil fields as their Western partners are. In his address to a conference of the League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs he expressed his disappointment that local businessmen were not willing to finance even small scale work while international companies were vigorously exploring and operating Kazakhstan's oil fields.

The President wanted the League to buy stocks of a West Kazakhstan-Kumkol pipeline so as to speed up its construction. Once the pipeline is put into operation, Nazarbayev said, "Kazakhstan will win oil independence" and will eventually "dictate its own prices of petroleum products."

Foreign credits, he thinks, must be given only to businesses that "will put them to better uses", are capable of manufacturing competitive goods, and prepared "to repay these credits before the deadlines."

Turkey, said Nazarbayev, had opened a $200 million line of credit for Kazakhstan. Austria also provides a credit which, in the words of the President, "does not have a ceiling."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan was set up last fall. Large state-controlled and other businesses are represented in it.

Industrialists Discuss Economic Situation

LD1902214393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2052 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Cherkizov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 19 TASS—Kazakh industrialists and entrepreneurs gathered in Alma-Ata on Friday [19 February] to discuss economic problems in the republic.

They said 1993 will not be an easy year for the republic as inflation will continue to soar, while industrial output will fall further down.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev who attended the conference called on the industrialists and business people to use their own resources and restore economic ties with other republics.

The conference approved a draft decision on the tasks of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in 1993 to stabilise the situation and suggested setting up a faction of industrialists and entrepreneurs in the republican parliament.

Vice President Urges Additional Powers for Nazarbayev

OW2302121993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh Vice-President Erik Asanbayev believes that Nursultan Nazarbayev should be given additional powers by the constitution in order to stop the crisis and stabilize the situation in the country. Speaking of the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of power he said the parliament should legalize the possibility of giving the president powers in definite spheres and the right to pass decrees having the power of law during a restricted period.

In an interview for the local press the vice-president said that additional powers could be used at difficult transitional stages of development. Powers, including some legislative, will be necessary to control critical processes, otherwise the steps of the government and executive bodies will be ineffective and belated.

Constitutional Court Wants Equality in Punishment

OW2202133393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan urged President Nazarbayev to initiate a law envisaging equal punishment for crimes against private and state property. Kazakhstan's new constitution puts all forms of property on an equal footing.

The Constitutional Court also proposed that the president submit a corresponding draft law to the parliament's March session.

The current Criminal Code reserves a more rigid punishment for crimes against state property.

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov Gives Armed Forces Day Speech

LD2302161893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Speech by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan Imamali Rakhmonov on the occasion of Armed Forces day; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, guests soldiers, warrant officers and officers. On behalf of and at the instruction of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, I personally congratulate you on the [word indistinct] festival—the day of the establishment of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan and the occasion of taking the military oath to sincerely serve the people and the homeland.

Today all of us are celebrating an auspicious and historic occasion following the independence of Tajikistan. It was made possible for the Tajik people to see once again the triumph of the homeland's Armed Forces after 10 centuries. The nature of this exciting moment and this auspicious scene corresponding to 23 February 1993 will fill a glorious and unforgettable page of our history. This event will take its glorious place along with the other honors, values, and lofty achievements of our nation.

The establishment of the Armed Forces, not only means the protection of the independence and the new achievements of Tajikistan, but without any exaggeration portrays the spirit, will, and desire of our people. Because only the sons of the people, the inhabitants of this [word indistinct] will defend and love their homeland as precious life and will steadfastly safeguard it from the evil eyes of the usurpers and from the attacks of plunderers. [passage omitted]

The Armed Forces of Tajikistan was never created so that its officers and soldiers would in the future attack the people of any country or state. It only means that a country without a king and without arms and officers [?will not have] any future. The tragic events of the past year in our country have fully proved this point.

We will direct all our efforts to providing military servicemen with a good life and to ensure [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

I fully believe that the creation, organization, and maintenance of the new Armed Forces of Tajikistan will bring about a reliable foundation for the implementation of the noble and humanitarian aspirations of our state and people, so that the lives of all nationalities and people of the Republic once again find their true and real direction.

I once again congratulate you all on the occasion of the Armed Forces day of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Long live the unity of the people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Rakhmonov on Afghan Situation; Denies Being Communist

OW2202173793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov arrived in Moscow on Monday [22 February] to prepare for the next round of Tajik-Russian negotiations on the highest level. Along with problems concerning economic cooperation, the head of government will discuss the domestic political situation in Tajikistan with his Russian partners, since the defeat of opposition forces in the Ramit Gorge and some other regions.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax [IF] in Dushanbe, Rakhmonov said the commandos based on Afghan territory would be unable a launch a large-scale offensive this spring, nor did he believe in the possibility of a jihad (holy war) against Tajikistan's Russian and Uzbek population that opposition leaders are threatening to unleash.

He said that the aims of the cabinet's military operations in the Garm Valley and the Ramit Gorge were purely humanitarian - to restore "normal life and legitimate authority" in those regions and bring food and medicaments to the liberated villages. He denied that any Russian forces took part in those operations.

He said, however, that the Russian 201st division has up till now and, on the basis of a recent agreement with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, will guarantee Tajikistan's security for the next five years.

Rakhmonov said the armed detachments of the Tajik Popular Front form part of the republic's armed forces on a contractual basis. He said he asked Sangak Safarov, leader of the Popular Front, a movement "enjoying great respect among the people," to concentrate on the repatriation of Tajiks who have taken refuge in Afghanistan and their resettlement in Tajikistan.

IF Note: A Tajik government delegation, which includes Safarov, is on February 23 leaving for Afghanistan, to negotiate the refugees' repatriation. The delegation will be meeting refugees and dealing with technical problems of their return.

Commenting on the claims in the media to the effect that the present Tajik government is communist, Rakhmonov said he had never held any posts in the former Communist Party, and was elected parliament chairman, not at a Communist Party congress or at a plenary meeting of the party's central committee, but at a parliament session attended by members of various parties, including the Islamic Revival Party. Many of the CIS presidents, including Yeltsin, were members of the Communist Party nomenklatura but, for some reason,

nobody labels them as chiefs of pro-communist regimes, said Rakhmonov, who thinks that today the Tajik people need no political parties at all.

IF Note: In Sunday's address to the Tajik people on occasion of the forthcoming observation of Ramadan (the month of fasting), Rakhmonov rejected the assertion that the Tajik leadership holds an anti-Islamic position.

Parliament Chief Assures U.S. of Commitment to Democracy

LD2202063093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0621 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Tajik Parliament speaker Imamali Rakhmonov expressed his gratitude to U.S. President Bill Clinton for 25-million dollar aid rendered to the Central Asian republic for charity purporses. In a message to Clinton Rakhmonov reiterated that his republic strives to become a secular democratic state which will respect human rights of all nationalities and religious confessions.

Deputy Prime Minister Thanks Russian Military

OW2202180993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In anticipation of the Russian national holiday - the Day of the Defender of the Motherland - Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Mukhammad Sayd Ubaydullayev has thanked the officers and men in Russia's 201 division, which is deployed on the territory of Tajikistan, for assistance in protecting the republic's vital industrial installations. In addressing the Russian servicemen on Monday [22 February], he said the Tajik government has allocated two million rubles to be issued as bonuses to the division personnel.

The division commander, Major General Mukhriddin Ashurov, emphasized in his return address that his troops see their primary objective in joining their efforts with the newly-established Tajik national armed forces in order to deter any aggression from without.

Meantime, official Dushanbe does not exclude a possibility that the oppositional armed formations may venture a spring offensive, given some of their soldiers are undergoing a course of training on the territory of neighboring Afghanistan.

Muslim Leadership Voices 'Full Support' for Government

LD2002164493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The leadership of Tajik Muslims has voiced its full support for the country's constitutional government. A statement issued by leading Muslim figures contained an appeal to compatriots to spare no effort for restoring peace to Tajikistan. By latest reports, the situation in the country, where the civil war has raged for over six months, is gradually returning to normal. About 5,000 refugees have returned to their homes from neighboring Afghanistan. In Tajikistan a special United Nations mission is giving humanitarian aid to the population.

Commentary on Results of Prime Minister's India Visit

BK1902113593 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hindi 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Vasant Georgiyev commentary]

[Text] Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov held talks with his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao and other Indian leaders in Delhi. Obviously, the talks drew the attention of the observers because this was the first visit by the prime minister of the new Government of Tajikistan—a Central Asian republic. The visit took place only a few days after Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited India. During his visit, Boris Yeltsin had said that not only Russia, but other republics in the erstwhile Soviet Union as well, want to maintain and develop traditional friendly ties with India. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov's visit to India took place after similar visits by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Before leaving for Delhi, he told reporters that he had selected India for his first overseas visit because this country with a mixed economy has gained a lot of experience in the field of economic reforms which can prove very beneficial for the Tajik Government, which is implementing socioeconomic programs. So, to what degree were the Tajik premier's expectations realized?

It could be concluded from the agreements signed as a result of the Delhi talks that the visit was successful. Other than concluding a declaration of principles and direction of cooperation between the two countries, many agreements, including a protocol between the foreign ministries, were signed for cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, art, culture, education, sports, and mass communications. The Tajik Foreign Economic Bank will cooperate with the State Bank of India. India will provide a $5 million credit to Tajikistan for the reconstruction of its economy devastated during the civil war.

Elucidation by both sides on urgent international issues, especially in connection with the situation in this region, is also not of small significance. It is no secret that the establishment of independent Muslim states in the Central Asian region of the erstwhile Soviet Union has created apprehensions in Delhi that the influence of Islamic fundamentalism may be on the rise in this region. The TIMES OF INDIA made this very point during the visit. The Tajik prime minister tried to allay these fears. Like the leaders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan who visited India before

him, the Tajik prime minister also said that there is no place for Islamic fundamentalism in the Central Asian republics. As far as the question of the development of cooperation between these republics and the Muslim states in the region is concerned, Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said that Tajikistan wants to maintain friendly relations with all its neighboring states on the basis of sovereign equality.

Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Cited

OW1902190793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The results of the visit surpassed our boldest expectations," Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said commenting on his visit to India in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

He commended the documents signed during the visit - a political declaration, and trade, economic, banking, science, and cultural agreements. It is difficult to overestimate their importance, he said. They signify the beginning of long-term cooperation on such a scale that "we even need time to assess what has been done."

Abdullodzhanov said the four-day visit had been extremely intensive - there were negotiations with the Prime Minister, Vice-President, the ruling party's leaders, members of parliament, and businessmen. "We were astonished when Prime Minister Narasimha Rao announced to us the government's decision to give Tajikistan a credit of five million dollars, because there was no previous agreement to that effect. The delegation did hope it would be a successful visit but the reception the Indian leadership gave us by far surpassed all our expectations," the Prime Minister said.

Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov said the visit had been extremely constructive in spite of the fact that it had not been planned very far in advance. He said the Indian leadership expressed support for the legitimate government of Tajikistan and voiced its intention to help the republic achieve stability. In spite of today's largely unpredictable situation in Tajikistan, India is prepared to step up economic cooperation with it. An agreement was reached providing for the setting up of joint ventures both in India and Tajikistan.

A protocol was also signed, Alimov said, under which Tajik diplomats will receive training at the Indian Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations. Another agreement stipulates that Tajikistan will open its embassy in Delhi and a consulate general in Bombay.

The minister specially emphasized the fact that Indian officials repeatedly mentioned the influence of the Persian language, the official language of Tajikistan, on the formation of Indian culture.

Program To Rebuild War-Ravaged Economy Elaborated

PM2302104593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Tajikistan Has Elaborated Program for Repairing Ravaged Economy"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The Tajik Economy Ministry has elaborated an emergency plan for restoring the national economy, which has been devastated by the civil war.

It is proposed that all vitally important facilities will resume work in the next two-three years and will reach the production level of 1985-1990. Economists calculate that this will cost around 13 billion rubles [R]. It will cost another R100 billion to raise the pay of staffers of budget-funded organizations and institutions and pensions and grants. Bread and dairy produce subsidies will cost substantial sums.

The commentaries on the emergency plan for rebuilding the economy stress that this restoration work must proceed as rapidly as this because there could be runaway unemployment if national economic facilities remain idle.

It is also noted that Tajikistan can hardly cope with all the problems on its own because this year it will still have a large budget deficit—R25 billion. In this regard an accord has been reached between the government and the leadership of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan on a 12-year preferential, interest-free credit of R286 billion.

Government Elaborates Anti-Crisis Plan

LD1802224093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Dushanbe, 18 Feb (TIA "Khovar" correspondent—TASS)—A transition to market relations in Tajikistan in phases is envisaged by an economic program elaborated by the republic's government for getting out of the crisis. It makes provision for the production level of 1986-1990 to be reached over the course of two or three years.

As the republic's minister of economy, Ismoil Davlatov, said today in an interview given to a correspondent of TIA "Khovar," the new plan is a real one; it has sufficent material and financial guarantees and is notable for its social orientation.

In Ismoil Davlatov's opinion, credit worth around 300 billion rubles; which is being given to Tajikistan by the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan; will help to bring the republic out of the crisis.

Uzbekistan

Ukraine's Kuchma Holds Talks With Karimov, Mutalov

LD2002014793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The official delegation of Ukraine, headed by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, arrived in Tashkent today.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Republic of Uzbekistan is the first of the four countries of the Central Asian region that the Ukrainian delegation will visit during the period of a week.

[Begin Kuchma recording, in Russian] I always think that the economy should be in the foreground, that is, if there are normal economic relations between Uzbekistan and Ukraine, that is the most important thing. [end recording]

[Begin Mutalov recording, in Russian] I think that the visit of Leonid Danylovych simply opens great possibilities for direct contacts between legal persons, that is, enterprises with enterprises. Why? Because a trade and economic agreement is practically signed between Ukraine and Uzbekistan. And with this visit, he simply gives another impulse to more profoundly study the problems with mutual deliveries that exist today, issues of finance in mutual payments and all those issues that worry the economies of the two republics today. [end recording]

[Correspondent] As it turned out at a meeting of Ukraine's prime minister with Islam Karimov, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the economies of the two countries are worried, in the first place, about mutual deliveries of raw materials and products. Uzbekistan would like to have Ukrainian metal, machine-tools, and products of petrochemical and machine-building industries. Ukraine is interested in Uzbek cotton, in the extraction of gold, and in setting up banks with joint capital.

The meeting ended with a surprise—under the conditions of dictatorship by Russia as regards deliveries and prices for oil and gas, the prospect of Ukraine receiving this raw material from Uzbekistan has emerged. President Karimov proposed to Ukraine that it take part in developing gas deposits and in extracting gas. Both delegations will be preparing propositions for tomorrow concerning an agreement on this issue.

Kuchma on Economy, Cooperation, Crimean Tatars

LD2002121093 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 2049 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By special UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[Text] Tashkent, 19 Feb (UKRINFORM)—The aim of our visit is to make existing relations, specifically economic ones, between Ukraine and Uzbekistan even better, stated Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma at Tashkent airport today. He arrived here at the head of a government delegation. Tashkent is the first stop of this trip, the route of which will also run through the capitals of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov received Leonid Kuchma and the officials accompanying him. He acquainted the guests with the main attitudes of his understanding of how one should go over to a market economy. Above all, in his opinion, it is necessary to take into account national local conditions, and not to follow blindly any kind of stereotypes. The economy must be de-ideologized, but the laws, which are adopted, should be implemented. A strong social policy, of course, is needed. They have not gone for shock therapy in Uzbekistan. Gradually advancing on the path of market relations, they have managed to contain the increase in prices.

Touching on mutual relations with Ukraine, Islam Karimov emphasized that Uzbekistan needs mutually advantageous cooperation with it. In this country they are interested in products of Ukrainian ferrous metallurgy, machine-tool engineering, and other industries. The Tashkent aviation plant has cooperated fruitfully with the Oleg Antonov design office for many years, and the Uzbek side would like to continue these links. Uzbekistan is prepared to deliver cotton in the required volume for Ukrainian sugar and grain. Islam Karimov proposed participation in mining deposits of Uzbek gas. According to his assertion, cooperation between our countries must be constructed not on [words indistinct] slogans of friendship, but on mutual interests. One must not forget, however, about the spiritual values which unite the people of the former Soviet Union. The Uzbekistan president noted that a great deal of attention is paid to national minorities in his country. This also applies to the Crimean Tatars. In connection with the process of their resettlement in the homeland of their ancestors, the head of the Uzbek state pointed out that this resettlement began without preparation and brought with it well-known complications. Although in Uzbekistan they understand the problems of the Crimean Tatars in depth, and agree to render assistance, Islam Karimov believes: The allocated funds for their passage will provoke Crimean Tatars to this step, who have lived on Uzbek soil in peace and friendship among other nationalities for nearly half a century.

Leonid Kuchma expressed agreement with many of the views of the Uzbekistan president. He described the position of Ukraine's economy. In spite of great difficulties, which are connected a lot with Russia increasing prices for energy-carriers, the workers approve of the government's actions in the main. In this respect the strike of the Kiev transport employees, which the population of the city did not support, is telling. The people are tired of listening to political conversations. The time

for strenuous constructive work has come. In order to make reforms, the country needs authority from the top to the bottom.

The Ukrainian prime minister spoke for the necessity of long-term cooperation with Uzbekistan. Joint enterprises and banks with joint capital can serve this. Ukraine is showing an interest in mining depostis of Uzbek gold. Leonid Kuchma supported Islam Karimov's proposal to study the prospects of joint utilization of deposits of Uzbek gas.

Issues of economic cooperation were examined in detail during Leonid Kuchma's conversation with Uzbekistan Prime Minister Abdulhasim Mutalov. The signing of bilateral documents is planned for tomorrow. The delegation members will visit the Tashkent aviation plant and go on a trip to Samarkand.

Agreement 'Came as a Surprise'

OW2102120893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0947 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An intergovernmental protocol on Ukraine's participation in developing Uzbekistan's oil and gas complex were signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries Leonid Kuchma and Abdulhashim Mutalov in Tashkent on Saturday [20 February]. Ukraine will take part in prospecting for and developing new oil and gas deposits in Uzbekistan and cooperate in expanding and modernizing the operational facilities.

Addressing newsmen at the end of the talks in Tashkent, Mr. Kuchma said that the agreement had not been prepared in advance. An offer to sign it "came as a surprise" during his meeting with the Uzbek President Islam Karimov on February 19. As Mr. Kuchma explained, Mr. Karimov disclosed in a conversation that initially Pakistan had been planned as a partner to develop deposits together, however, Ukraine had been preferred because of its problems with fuel supplies from Russia.

The package of 20 documents signed in Tashkent on Saturday includes an intergovernmental accord on cooperation in transportation, an agreement on accounts and payments, and a trade protocol.

The sides agreed that Uzbekistan would keep its deliveries of strategic raw material, cotton, and copper to Ukraine at the 1992 level. On most commodities, as Mr. Kuchma declared, shipments will accelerate.

In Mr. Mutalov's words, once the problems of mutual accounts are settled, commodities exchange will improve. He reported that in line with an interbank agreement, Ukraine's national bank and Uzbekistan's central bank will open 20 bln [billion] roubles-worth mutual technical credits. Uzbekistan's central bank has guaranteed the repayment by March 10 of the Uzbek enterprises' debt, totalling 8 bln roubles.

Gas Agreement 'Exceptionally Important'

LD2202151793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Excerpts] A government delegation from Ukraine, headed by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, arrived in Kazakhstan on 21 February. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the conclusion of the agreement with Uzbekistan, Leonid Kuchma mentioned the accord on Ukraine's participation in the extraction of gas on Uzbekistan's territory. This is exceptionally important for Ukraine, he said. Its independence cannot depend on one turn of a gas valve. We need one another. We have a mutual wish to work on principles of mutually advantageous cooperation, stated Leonid Kuchma, prime minister of Ukraine, at a news conference in Tashkent on 20 February. This, noted the premier, unfortunately cannot be said about Russia. The unpredictability of its actions is terrible for the economy of neighboring states.

New Passports To Be Issued 'This Summer'

LD2202143793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] According to RIA, the replacement of passports will begin in Uzbekistan this summer. All sections of the Soviet passport, including the one on nationality, will be retained in the Uzbek passport. But all the entries will now be typed and done in three languages—Uzbek, Russian, and English. The first Uzbek passport will match up to international standards and will be a combined document for use both within the republic and for foreign travel.

Armenia

Artem Atalyants Appointed Presidential Adviser

LD1902185393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 19 TASS—Artem Atalyants, a businessman from Sochi, the Russian Krasnodar territory, has been appointed the Armenian president's adviser for international economic relations.

A decree of Levon Ter-Petrosyan to the effect was circulated here today by the Armenian president's press service.

Atalyants was born in 1958 in Kokand, Uzbekistan. He is a graduate of a construction technical school and the economic department of the Tashkent National Economy Institute. Atalyants was head of a construction department and director of sports facilities. In 1990 he founded the Inpromservice private investment company in Sochi.

In July, 1991, Atalyants was arrested and kept in the Krasnodar investigation ward, and later in the Moscow Lefortovo prison.

Opposition Claims New Cabinet 'Will Be Short-Lived'

PM1902124193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenia: New Government Formed"]

[Text] Yerevan—The new Armenian Cabinet of Ministers, formed following the government crisis which broke out two weeks ago, has been announced.

Of the 34 government members who comprise the cabinet, 10 ministers are newcomers, which gave the republic president grounds to speak of the observance of continuity in cadre policy. Rejecting accusations that he had appointed leaders according to the principle of personal loyalty, Levon Ter-Petrosyan stressed that the prime minister's opinion had been taken into account during the formation of the present cabinet; he has the right to consider the new cabinet as his team. The president also stated that he is prepared to assume responsibility for all the Armenian Government's possible mistakes and miscalculations.

Meanwhile, representatives of the opposition are assessing very skeptically the potential of the new cabinet of ministers, and predicting that it will be short-lived. The basis for such claims is notably provided by the program for the republic's socioeconomic development in 1993, which was shaped by the present premier and resolutely rejected by parliament.

Opposition Activists Released 19 Feb

OW2002163093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armen Zatykyan, deputy chairman of the board of the National Self-Determination Association, an Armenian opposition organization, told Interfax the 20 members of the association detained on February 18 were released on Friday [19 February] under pressure from the opposition. They were arrested after a rally which demanded dismissal of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and convocation of a constitutional assembly.

Zatykyan qualified the arrest as an attempt to put political pressure on the opposition. He also said the ban on the association's newspapers Svoboda and Ankakhutyun, imposed a month ago, has still not been lifted.

Spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh on Next Round of Talks

OW1902173993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh will take part in the next round of talks on settling the Karabakh conflict scheduled for February 26. To be held in Rome, the talks will include the representatives of 11 countries involved in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

As IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent learned from Nagorno-Karabakh's mission in Armenia, the 4-member delegation will be led by Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, chairman of the parliamentary commission for foreign relations of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

Before the beginning of the next round of the talks in Rome, the chairman of the group on the Karabakh conflict, Mario Rafaelli of Italy, will conduct consultations. They are expected to begin on February 22 and involve spokesmen for Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Turkey and the USA.

The process of settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh goes on in the framework of the so-called CSCE Minsk group, which includes the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Russia, Italy, the USA, France, Germany, Turkey and Sweden. Now it will evidently be joined by Czechia, which will replace former Czechoslovakia.

The decision to convene the CSCE conference in Minsk was taken on March 24 last year, at a special session held by the CSCE Council in Helsinki. In the framework of preparations for this conference four rounds of talks

have already been held. Unfortunately, they yielded virtually no results, since in the course of continued hostilities both sides advanced preliminary conditions.

During the latest meeting held last September Baku demanded that the city of Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh and Lachin District in Azerbaijan be freed before the beginning of the Minsk conference. For their part, Yerevan and Stepanakert demanded that Azerbaijan's military units leave Shaumyan and Mardakert Districts in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

North Ossetian Premier Signs Economic Agreement in Yerevan

NC1902203993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Sergey (Fitagorov), chairman of the North Ossetian Council of Ministers, visited Yerevan yesterday. A trade and economic agreement for 1993 was signed between Armenia and North Osetia within the framework of the Armenian-Russian trade and economic agreement. Deputy Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan signed the agreement for Armenia.

Self-Defense Forces Continue 'Successful Counteroffensive'

NC1902152193 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites a self-defense forces' headquarters report that, despite fierce resistance by the Azerbaijani army units, the Armenian self-defense detachments are continuing their successful counteroffensive along the battlefront in Mardakertskiy Rayon.

A battle for the village of Aterk in the rayon is currently under way, with the Armenian freedom fighters in control of the heights. Battles are also continuing in the region around the liberated villages of Zardakhach and Chapar. Here, too, the Karabakh self- defense forces are maintaining their military superiority.

The Armenian forces are now striking out from the village of Drmbon, and advancing towards Charektar.

According to confirmed reports, four Armenian freedom fighters were injured during the fighting 18 February. The enemy suffered susbtantial losses in men and material.

It was reported from Stepanakert that Khramort in Askeranskiy Rayon was shelled from the military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon on 18 February. Two residents were injured. Fire was returned and the enemy was silenced.

The situation is relatively calm along Lachin humanitarian corridor and the road is open.

NKR, Border Clashes With Azerbaijan Updated

NC2202170393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh continues to be tense. The incidents during the past week have proven once again that the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh will not allow Azerbaijan to occupy their ancestral country. The NKR self-defense forces are gradually broadening their counterattacks to liberate the territories occupied by Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] units. The enemy side during the past week has been forced to withdraw from several towns and strategic heights.

Azerbaijani military units once again have suffered many casualties and lost a considerable number of military vehicles in Mardakertskiy Rayon. Meanwhile, their attempts to launch wide-scale attacks on the other parts of the battlefront, particularly in Askeranskiy Rayon, have failed. The Armenian self-defense forces resolutely rebuffed the attacks and launched counterattacks. They succeeded in liberating Khramort.

According to reports from the NKR, Armenian self-defense forces fortified themselves in the liberated towns and heights in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 18 February. They maintained their counterattacks after foiling an attempt by ANA units to regain the military initiative in the region. The situation in Drmbon and [placename indistinct] is tense at present.

The NKR self-defense forces continue to control the Terter- Mardakert-Kel'badzhar road.

The situation in the border areas in Askeranskiy Rayon has remained unstable during the past two days. The self-defense positions in [placename indistinct] have been fired on with various types of arms. ANA units lost many men on that part of the battlefront 17-19 February. They lost 50 men in that area. The Armenian side lost one fighter and another was wounded.

Fighting is taking place around [placename indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon at present. NKR self-defense forces are resisting the usurpationist army, which is superior in terms of men and military equipment.

The situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border also is unstable. Regardless of the existing tension, however, the situation in a large part of the border area is relatively peaceful. As has been the case during the past few days, exchanges of fire and clashes took place in the border areas of Armenia's Tavushskiy and Idzhevanskiy Rayons. The Armenian Defense Ministry has disclosed that the defensive positions around Paravakar, Aygepar, and Nerkin- Karmiragyur in Tavushskiy Rayon were

fired on last night by tanks and armored vehicles. The fire was returned and the enemy silenced. There were no Armenian casualties.

An Azerbaijani unit of 19 men tried to cross the Armenian border near Paravakar at about 1000 yesterday. They paid dearly for their attempt. The raid was foiled as a result of the operations carried out by our border guards. Five of the armed men were killed and several others were wounded. There were no Armenian casualties.

Unfortunately, that was not the only incident on the border. [Placename indistinct] in Idzhevanskiy Rayon was fired on from Azerbaijan at 0400 today. The Armenian side was compelled to retaliate.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan has not abandoned its military activities in the NKR and the border region between the two Republics, even when arrangements are being made at the international level to end the confrontation between the two sides. The war is useless. The existing problems and disputes can only be resolved through talks.

Azerbaijan

President Elchibey on Russian Troop Presence

OW2202152793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey described today's political situation in the republic as "complicated." "We face military pressure on the part of imperial forces trying to keep Azerbaijan within their sphere of influence," he said on Sunday [21 February] at a Popular Front meeting in Baku.

He said Russia still has 2000 troops stationed in Azerbaijan. "The military leaders of Russia don't want to withdraw them," he said. Moscow, he said, demands to keep them in Azerbaijan as a peace-keeping force.

Azerbaijani State Secretary Panakh Guseynov said that, having made that demand, Moscow for the first time suggested rapprochement with Azerbaijan. The Russian military threatened, Guseynov said, that otherwise the Armenians would occupy the whole of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Further Remarks

NC2202214093 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Baku 22 Feb (TURAN)—Closed session of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan People's Front took place yesterday evening in Baku. The president of the Republic, the chairman of the parliament and the state secretary were present on the session. The session was dedicated to the analysis of the political situation took place in Azerbaijan.

President Abulfaz Elchibey in his speech marked that the Armenian attack in Karabakh was begun just after Azerbaijani leadership rejected the ultimatum demand of the Russian generals to leave the 104th Russian military air landing subunit in Azerbaijan, to allow it a special status as peacemaking forces and to join the military-political bodies of the CIS.

According to the agreement, signed by ministers of defence of Russia and Azerbaijan in summer of 1993 year this sub-unit, dislocated in Gyandrha, must be withdrawn from Azerbaijan to the region of Ulyanovsk of Russia to summer of 1993 year. As the president noted in his speech Azerbaijan refused to implement this demand in spite of the threat of generals to punish the Republic, and estimated participation of subunits of the 7th Russian Army in the military activities on the side of Armenians as the beginning of the realization of threatens of the Russian generals.

On the words of Speaker of the parliament Isa Kamberov the situation taken place at the present moment is the most complicated after that of taken place in May of 1992 year when Azerbaijan refuted the demand of Russia to join the CIS.

As it is known that time the Russian subunits took a direct part in capture of the last Azeri settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh—the town of Shusha and also in occupation of the region of Lachinskiy of the Republic granting a land corridor, connecting it with Nagorno-Karabakh.

State Secretary Panakh Guseynov said on the conference that Azerbaijan nevertheless will not yield to pressure of the Russia generals and will not swing off the way of building of genuine independent state.

People's Front Criticizes Russian Troops' Role

NC1902141093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1224 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 19.02.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The direct participation of Russian troops in the latest events we consider as violation of Azerbaijan's sovereignty by Russia. Such actions contradicts international norms and principles, and also terms of agreement on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, signed by Russia and Azerbaijan, it's said in the statement of Azerbaijan People's Front. Participation of 366 Regiment in military actions on Armenian militants' side last year brought to genocide of Azerbaijanis population of Khodzhaly town. Today military technics and forces of 128 Regiment, stationed in Armenia, help Armenian aggressors to occupy new territories of Azerbaijan in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] province, it's underlined in the

statement. It threatens the Russian population of Azerbaijan and it can influence negatively on the development of Russian-Azerbaijan relations, such development of events contradicts state and national interests of Russia, it's supposed in the statement of Azerbaijan People's Front.

Commentary Rejects Russian Deployment in Armenia

NC2202174793 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Russia's Intentions Cause Unease"]

[Excerpts] Our people are living under very difficult and tense conditions. Fighting in the northern part of Karabakh is continuing. The Armenian Armed Forces have resumed their attacks after receiving support from their allies. Nevertheless, our Army is strongly resisting the enemy units and preventing them from advancing in our territory.

The talks held by the religious leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia have failed to yield any results. The sudden attacks launched by the Armenians in Agderinskiy Rayon during the talks between the two religious officials confirmed their deceitful and infamous approach. It seems that [words indistinct]. Therefore, it is hoped that Vazgen I [Catholicos of All the Armenians] will raise his voice for the sake of peace.

A report we recently received has caused significant anxiety. Two Russian motorized infantry units will be withdrawn from Germany and redeployed in Armenia. The redeployment has been requested by that Republic. Furthermore, Armenia has informed the world that the Russian Government has agreed to deploy the two military units in that Republic. According to Yerevan, the troops and their armored vehicles and military equipment will be deployed along the Azerbaijani-Armenian border.

Azerbaijan's border towns have been shelled systematically up to now. It seems that the shelling will be intensified in the future. We are well aware that the Russian Army's participation in the war in Karabakh has made a significant difference. We also are well aware of the significant role Russian tanks played in the incidents in Khodzhaly. In view of all this, how can we not be worried?

The Armenian nationalists have acquired many effective weapons. They used to take arms by force. In fact, they kidnapped Russian troops and took their arms. Later, they acquired arms by offering cash to the troops. Meanwhile, a large quantity of arms was supplied to Armenia from foreign countries. All these arms have been transported to Nagorno-Karabakh through the Lachin corridor to be used against Azerbaijani citizens. The Russian troops' weapons undoubtedly will fall into the hands of the Armenians sooner or later. [passage omitted]

How can Russia's calls for peace be reconciled with the rearming of Armenia? We wish to stress the following: Armenia's unilateral rearmament will upset the military balance in the region. The neighboring countries obviously will object to this. Meanwhile, the United Nations also must object to this situation. Karabakh is the most troubled region in the world. The war in that area has continued for five years. The CSCE and the United Nations have made strenuous efforts to end it, but the confrontation has continued. Under the existing conditions, Russia's deployment of two motorized infantry units in Armenia cannot be assessed in a positive way. [passage omitted]

Legislature Criticizes Defense Ministry Over Losses

NC2002134493 Baku TURAN in English 1008 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 20 Feb (TURAN)—As it was informed, the closed session of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan, dedicated to analysis of the military-political situation in Azerbaijan, took place yesterday.

President, deputy premier, leaders of police, the Military Procurator's Office, court and defence bodies of Azerbaijan took part in the work of the session.

According to unofficial sources, the leadership of the Ministry of Defence was subjected to severe criticism on the session in connection with a lot of serious lacks in Army, led to a number of large failures and losses on front.

The leadership of the Ministry of Defence in its term blamed the leadership in indifference to problems of the Army and in nonparticipation of the state in the process of military building.

According to the information of the press-service of the president, the determination appealed to secure cardinal changes in Armed Forces of the country was accepted at the session.

Official Quits Over Army 'Political Games'

LD2202215093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Leyla Yunusova, head of the information and analytical center of the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, has stated that she has decided to resign. One of the reasons for the failures which Azerbaijan has recently experienced in the war against Armenia is the fact that the Azerbaijan Army has found itself involved in political games, she maintains.

Commander Dismissed Over Failure in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2302092393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] By decree of President Abulfaz Elchibey, Surat Guseynov, commander of one of the Azerbaijani Army corps in the Karabakh conflict zone, has been dismissed, NEGA reports from Baku. Guseynov was earlier relieved of his authority as presidential representative in Mardakertskiy Rayon, which is occupied by the Azerbaijani Army. The ruling People's Front has blamed Guseynov for the Azerbaijani troops' recent failures in the conflict. The disgraced military commander has also been accused of failing to obey the orders of the legitimate authorities and of planning a mutiny.

Armenians Continue Offensive in Karabakh

OW2202181893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "Armenian expeditionary force" broke into large-scale offensive in Agderin (Mardakert) District of Nagorno-Karabakh and is advancing on Agdam, an Azerbaijani district center, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense reports. Extensive damage is reported in Agdam and nearby villages. The data on victims among civil population will be made available later.

According to the Ministry, Azerbaijani units have succeeded in holding the enemy offensive in some areas. Bitter fighting is continuing.

Fighting Reported in Various Rayons

NC2202191693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] A communique issued by the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center reads:

Fighting continued in Agderinskiy Rayon last night and today, but the military situation has not changed. The Armenian occupationists fired on the towns close to Agdamskiy Rayon's front line at about 0800 today. They then attacked Shilli, Menzili, and Ergi. Our fighters fought violent battles and forced the enemy to retreat in all directions. Our positions in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon were attacked from Kurapatkino and Moganly at about noon. Fighting is continuing in that region at present.

The situation in the other disputed areas has been relatively peaceful.

Armenian Units Take Control of Sarsang Dam

OW2302113093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian units in the Mardakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Monday evening [22 February] took control of the strategically important Sarsang hydro-complex including the dam at the reservoir of the same name. INTERFAX received this information from the Karabakh defense head quarters.

According to information from Stepanakert the Armenian forces are moving to the east and north east of the Mardakert region to the settlements of Metshen and Kusalat. These lie on the road to the Azerbaijani controlled regional center of Mardakert.

Various sources have said that the Armenians have occupied between 18 and 20 villages in Nagorno-Karabakh since the beginning of the February campaign with ten T-72 tanks and five armored personnel carriers seized.

Sources in Yerevan have said that, in the early hours of Tuesday, Armenian units repulsed an Azerbaijani attack on the village of Khramort in the Askeran region. After this they attacked and eliminated a base belonging to the Azerbaijani Army in the settlement of Shelli in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized and the Armenians returned to Nagorno-Karabakh. Yerevan says that at least ten Azerbaijani soldiers were killed in the fighting, but no Armenian losses were reported.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reported that the Armenians lost two tanks and four armored personnel carriers during the Agdam offensive.

Meanwhile Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey on Monday evening removed Surat Guseynov, the commander of the Azerbaijani forces in the Mardakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh, from his post. This was motivated by Guseynov's responsibility for the defeats sustained by the Azerbaijani Army in this region during the last two weeks.

Azerbaijan's defense minister was also replaced last week.

World Urged To Take Steps To End 'Massacre'

NC2202200593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Feb 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Presidential Press Service; place and date issued date not given]

[Text] Despite Azerbaijan's effort to find a peaceful settlement to the dispute and despite the steps taken by the world community for that purpose, Armenia has maintained its occupationist policy. Armenia's expeditionary corps units have not interrupted the attacks they launched in northern Karabakh on 5 February; on the contrary, they have transferred additional mercenary reinforcements to the battlefront through the corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon.

That Armenian Armed Forces intensified activity in Karabakh at a time the political crisis in Yerevan has worsened significantly indicates that Armenian leaders are prepared to disrupt the negotiations process for political claims, escalate the confrontation, and send hundreds of people to their deaths. We have been particularly worried by the presence of forces which try to strengthen their influence in the region with the help of the ruling circles in Armenia. These forces are trying to fan the flames of war in Karabakh and expand the occupied areas.

All this confirms once again that Azerbaijan is justified in demanding an international guarantee that its conditions will be met while it moves to attend the talks.

We resolutely condemn the activities of Armenia and its supporters. These activities may disrupt the Rome meeting and, in fact, the negotiations process within the CSCE as a whole. We call on all peace-loving forces to take resolute steps to end the massacre and Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, which began with the murder of two Azerbaijani youths in Karabakh five years ago and which has shaken the foundations of peace in the Near East [as heard] and created the threat of a catastrophe right now in the entire region.

Party Leader Proposes Autonomy for Armenians in Karabakh

NC2202214193 Baku TURAN in English 1311 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Baku (22 February) TURAN—One of the leaders of the Azeri Social-Democratic Party Zadrusht Alizade in his talk with the TURAN correspondent announced that Azerbaijan has to undertake new steps aimly to stop fire in Karabakh.

On Alizade's words Azerbaijan in the arisen conditions should make definite compromise for the sake of achievement of peace and stability in the Republic. He considers that the most optimum decision is to grant Armenians of Karabakh the administrative autonomy. This variant means higher degree of independency in comparison with the cultural autonomy provided by international law.

From the other side, the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh administration will have to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as the part of Azerbaijan.

Alizade considers that by this way Azerbaijan could end this prolonged conflict.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns of General Mobilization

LD2302113993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1111 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, has accused the Russian military leadership of striving "to enter an armed conflict with Georgia." A release from the Georgian parliament's press center which has arrived at ITAR-TASS notes that Eduard Shevardnadze spoke today at a sitting of parliament in connection with the bombing of Sukhumi on 20 February. Unless Russian troops leave Batumi and Abkhazia, stated Shevardnadze, "we will have to announce a general mobilization and rise altogether with weapons in hand to defend the country." At the same time, the head of state stressed that he intends to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin "to clarify the situation once and for all."

Seeks Meeting With Yeltsin

LD2302124993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze blasted the Russian military for attempts "to initiate an armed conflict with Georgia" and said he wants to meet the Russian president to "finally clear up the situation".

Shevardnadze, who addressed the Georgian Parliament on Tuesday [23 February] in connection with the recent bombardment of Sukhumi, the Georgian-controlled capital of Abkhazia, said Russian troops must be withdrawn from Abkhazia and the neighboring Adzharia and warned that otherwise "we shall have to proclaim total mobilisation and rise to protect the country with weapons in hands", according to a report of the press centre of the Georgian Parliament received by TASS.

On Monday the Russian Defence Ministry categorically denied it was involved in the bombing of Sukhumi and the responsibility for the air raid was claimed by Abkhazian military.

In the meantime, the Georgian Foreign Ministry officially accused Russia of bombing Sukhumi.

In a note to Russian Ambassador Vladimir Zemskiy, it qualified as groundless the first statement of the Russian Defence Ministry in which it said that fire was opened on a Georgian stronghold in Sukhumi which was shelling a Russian unit situated in the settlement of Eshery in Abkhazia. The Georgian ministry said there were no attacks on the Russian unit on February 19 and 20.

The ministry expressed its resolute protest and demanded an "urgent and all-round investigation of the accident and worthy punishment to those guilty".

Chairman of the pro-Georgian Government of Abkhazia Tomaz Nadareishvili made a statement in Sukhumi on Tuesday accusing Russian military of interfering into Georgian internal affairs.

He said the leadership of Russian units, deployed in Abkhazian- controlled Gudauta, is doing "everything possible to disrupt negotiations" between Georgia and

Russia and "violate the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Georgian state officially recognised by the world community."

Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Abkhazia

LD2202140993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1349 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Sukhumi, 22 Feb—In an address to members of Abkhazia's Salvation Committee, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the parliament of the Republic of Georgia, described the bombing of Sukhumi by a military aircraft on 20 February as "barbaric." He stressed that this action was "aimed at exacerbating relations between Russia and Georgia."

The Georgian head of state, together with Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, is spending a second day acquainting himself with the situation in Abkhazia. He held a meeting at the Abkhaz Council of Ministers, had talks with commanders of units of the Georgian armed forces, and visited areas of Sukhumi which had been bombed, where he expressed sympathy with relatives and friends of the victims.

Today Eduard Shevardnadze and Tengiz Sigua flew from Sukhumi to Ochamchira.

Returns to Tbilisi

OW2202151093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well-informed Georgian sources in Sukhumi, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on Monday finished his trip to Abkhazia. After visiting Ochamchira, he went to Sukhumi, and then flew back to Tbilisi.

Cabinet Announces Conscription To Begin 1 Mar

LD2202181793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1647 GMT 22 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 February—The Georgian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a decision on the conscription of young people to the republic's Armed Forces. It will begin on 1 March and will apply to men aged 18-25, excluding those who have privileges and deferment granted by law or on medical grounds.

Conflict Zone Remains Tense; Clashes in Eshera, Guandra

LD2302120093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—The situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict remains tense. According to information received from the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, Georgian troops opened fire today from mortars and "grad" missile launchers on the towns of Eshera and Guandra. The Abkhazian artillery retaliated by demolishing one Georgian gun emplacement and one pill-box.

According to the same source, the Abkhazians have captured a Georgian seiner "gagra" [as received] with property on board in the area of the town of Gudauta.

Local battles are being fought in the Ochamchri district.

Russian Army Installations Still Under Attack

LD1902193693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Georgia today time is running out for the army and the police to disarm all illegal armed formations. This operation was begun 10 days ago on instructions from Georgian leader Shevardnadze to put an end to attacks on Russian servicemen. The aim of the operation, however, has clearly not been achieved. The handing in of weapons has not gone well. The Russian military has already stated that Georgian Defense Ministry units marked Shevardnadze's directive on imposing order with a whole range of new attacks on Russian army installations.

Two Policemen Killed in Tbilisi 22 Feb

OW2302122593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two policemen were shot to death at point-blank range in Tbilisi on Monday [22 February] evening, Interfax was informed at the press center of the Georgian interior ministry. The search for the killers has as yet turned up nothing.

According to the ministry's information, since the beginning of February 1992, more than 100 policemen have been killed in the line of duty in Georgia.

Abkhazia To Inspect Ships Sailing to Russia

LD1802163693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—"The Abkhazian side retains the right to inspect all floating facilities sailing in Russia's direction and arrest cargoes which belong to Abkhazia. Coastal guards will open fire to hit sailing targets if they disobey orders," reads a statement circulated by the Abkhazian Defence Ministry on Thursday [18 February] on the grounds that "the Abkhazian property stolen from Abkhazian towns and villages is being quickly taken out from Abkhazian areas temporarily occupied by Georgian troops to Georgia's central areas."

The Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported that part of valuable goods, including agricultural products, cars and equipment for state and commercial enterprises, are being smuggled by sea to Russia to be subsequently sold there.

Meanwhile, the situation in the area of hostilities remains tense. Over the past twenty four hours heavy skirmishes continued in Gumista and Tkvarcheli directions involving heavy weapons.

During the shelling of Abkhazian positions in the town of Eshery two shells exploded on the territory of the army's seismic laboratory guarded by Russian paratroopers, ITAR-TASS learned from the press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry on Thursday. No casualties among servicemen have been reported.

Radicals Urge Taking Over USSR Weapons

LD2002014993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Georgian radicals are calling on the government to decisively raise the issue of taking over weapons that belonged to the former Soviet army. (Paatashvili), one of their leaders, stated today that according to international norms, one sixth of the former USSR's weapons belong to Georgia. That was a report from the POSTFAKTUM agency.